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THE
UNITED BRETHREN'S
Missionary Intelligencer,
AND
RELIGIOUS MISCELLANY;
CONTAINING
THE MOST RECENT ACCOUNTS RELATING TO THE UNITED BRETHREN'S MISSIONS AMONG THE HEATHEN;
With other interesting Communications from the Records of that Church.

No. VIII. FOURTH QUARTER, 1829. Vol. III.

GREENLAND.

Extract from the Diary of Fredericksthal, 1828.

(concluded from page 296.)

January 1. We entered the new year with praise and prayer, and "*blessed the Lord which spake with His mouth, and hath with His hand fulfilled it*," according to the text appointed for the day. In the evening, we prayed the Litany of the Life, Sufferings, and Death of Jesus, and were pleased to hear our congregation repeat the responses with great distinctness and solemnity; many of our congregation, particularly among the females, having learned within these few years to read well. Among the six persons admitted as candidates for baptism, on Epiphany, was the old angekok (or sorcerer) *Immernek*. The candidates being asked why they had come to live here, he answered in the name of the rest, "because we wish to "learn how we might be delivered from sin and death." Among their number was an aged female, who deeply repented of having spent so much time among the heathen. She often exclaimed: "I "only am the ajarkasikpunga" (that is, vile and wretched).

Indeed, she had spent her life, even to hoary age, in the commission of every sin; and at one time seemed quite dead, and past awakening to newness of life. Her appearance likewise was forbidding, and her conversion is a proof that the Lord's mercy is unbounded.

20*th*. A Greenland brother related, that, having caught a seal, he was in great danger from the violence of the wind; he said, "as "I was covered with the waves, and the spray of the sea flew about "me like smoke, I cried to the Lord with tears for help, repeating "that verse: '*My soul before Thee prostrate lies—To Thee, O Lord,* "*my spirit flies*,' upon which I felt such peace and comfort in my "heart, that, with a loud voice I praised him for my deliverance. The "storm abated, and I came safe on shore. He still walks upon the "sea, and commands the winds and waves." He concluded his nar-

rative by saying: "Since I know Jesus as my Saviour, and He always "hears my prayers, I will always turn to Him in distress."

February 2nd. We had a profitable conversation with all our widows, of whom only two are unbaptized.

Having occasion to reprove a young woman for her levity of conduct she made many excuses. We told her that we supposed she had forgotten what our Saviour had suffered to redeem her; upon which her tears began plentifully to flow, and she confessed herself a sinner.

On the *8th*, the assistant *Nathaniel* delivered an impressive discourse in the morning meeting, in which he described the sufferings and death of our Saviour in a remarkably striking manner. He concluded thus: "*Behold the man!* be this said to all of us. Let us "behold Him daily, and remember what He has suffered to save "us; let us never forget, that He has brought us together to this "place, that we may forsake the service of sin, and show forth His "death in our lives and conversation."

Last year a married communicant brother thought it would be well to learn to read, and received a spelling-book. He made such proficiency in a short time, that he now can read well, and therefore received a hymn-book and Harmony of the Four Gospels as a reward, He likewise is employed to sing in the choir. Two single women have done the same.

We are the more the gratified by these exertions, as it is seldom the case that adults venture upon learning; though the children make good proficiency.

16th. Speaking with the baptized, a sister said: "I have com-"mitted sin enough while I was among the heathen, but now abhor "it. Since I have been baptized, I dread the approach of tempta-"tion." An old person asked how she should pray; for she wished to address the Lord in a proper manner. She was told, that she should speak to Him as a child does to its parent, and simply mention her wants. That she should seek Him as soon as she awaked in the morning, and say: "Here am I; reveal Thyself to me as my "Saviour, and give me Thy grace." These words she repeated after us, and said, "I will thus address Him when I leave you."

If the Lord required much speaking—if it were not an eternal truth that He looketh to the heart, and heareth the cry of the needy—how should such poor heathen, who grow old and grey-headed before they join His Church, address their prayers to Him? But we also teach them the prescribed forms of prayer, which they repeat with much devotion.

22nd. We were much encouraged in speaking individually with our communicants. Their walk is worthy of the Gospel. One of the Brethren said: "If strange thoughts enter into my heart, I turn "away from them to our Saviour, for I think, from whom do I re-"ceive peace and happiness? assuredly from Him alone."

Another expressed himself thus: "I am naturally of a fiery tem-"per, and though my anger does not last long, I am ashamed of my-

" self, for I know that a true believer ought not to yield to his pas-
" sion."

March 4th. Timothy killed a polar bear. No rain having fallen since the beginning of December, a south wind on the 5th brought a plentiful shower.

Among the unbaptized people, we perceive, with pleasure, a great desire to obtain forgiveness of sin, and the privileges of the house of God.

9th. Two persons were admitted candidates for baptism, and nine were baptized. Four of them had removed hither in autumn. Their desire to hear and understand the Word of God was remarkably great. Both at church and in private conversation, they seemed to devour the words addressed to them; and we had encouraging proofs of the work of the Holy Spirit, in the hearts of the poor Heathen, who have hitherto lived without control, suffering neither poverty nor oppression, to make them seek comfort in religion; for their heathen relatives appear always in good spirits.

Thus, when one of these Heathen is in truth turned from his evil ways, and seeks a Saviour, it may be called a miracle of grace, and proves that the mercy of God has reached his heart; for it is His gift alone.

Among those baptized, was the well-known angekok *Immernek*, whom we named *Barzillai;* likewise his wife, and brother, the wife of the latter and her sister: two brothers also, and two sisters.

We have already noticed the singular circumstance that caused the angekok to come hither, from a great distance, on the 19th of December, 1826. His relatives told us that he had been a very celebrated man in his country for witchcraft, and diabolical incantations of every kind. He appeared to be principally assailed by the prince of darkness when he resolved to be truly converted to Jesus. He related, that once returning from the chapel he had seen the devil sitting alongside of him. We endeavoured to represent it as a foolish fancy, but he replied: " No! no! he sat next to me." We then forbade him to spread such stories among our people. He then returned, and last summer brought all his relations to live here; saying that he felt now as if he were really an inhabitant, because they all wished to be converted.

In the meetings for instruction, he gave very clear answers; for instance, being asked whether he believed that in baptism the penitent sinner was cleansed from sin by the application of the blood of Christ, he answered: " I certainly believe that this is done." The missionary observed that only water was seen; upon which he said: " that is true; but we certainly believe the words of Christ;" which gave occasion to edifying conversation. May the Lord make this remarkable man, who has been a servant of Satan, a faithful and zealous servant in His House. His wife is a very amiable and worthy Sister.

13th. In the morning meeting, that hymn being sung: " *This repeat in tones harmonious,*" *Nathaniel* said: " That verse sounds

"most pleasant in our ears, for if we truly understand the subject, "heavenly consolation fills our hearts, when we behold the Man of "Sorrows suffering for us. How happy shall we feel in heaven, "when we join in the song to the Lamb once slain. Therefore, my "dear Brethren, think of Him, and what He has done to redeem "you, and listen to what your teachers declare concerning Him. "He has sent them to you to testify of Him."

16*th*. About noon, the Greenlanders saw a polar bear coming out of the sea, and through the brook, passing by our old sod hut. All the men followed him with guns and harpoons, but he escaped for the present by running up a very steep eminence.

17*th*. However, he returned, and passed close by our house; we were surprised at the swiftness of his pace. The Greenlanders now drove him into the sea, and, following him in their kayak, soon killed him.

The Passion-week and Easter were days of great blessing.

April 7th. Forty-four single women and girls had a separate meeting for exhortation and instruction in Scriptural precepts, particularly relating to their state; we concluded with prayer that the Lord would preserve them from the evil of the world.

The spring this year began early, and the Greenlanders could set out to their fishery in the out-places on the 11th of April. We commended them to the preservation of the Lord both in their spiritual and temporal concerns.

On the 12*th*, *Joel*, a single Brother, by himself pursued and killed a polar bear.

Our land being now free from snow, and the grass growing, we were able to drive our small stock of cattle out upon it. As we have neither room nor opportunity to keep a great quantity, we are the more thankful for their good condition. Our four goats have produced eight kids, and every day good milk for supper.

On the 23*rd*, a boat full of people came from the south, and staid a few days with us; among them was a woman, of whom they related, that she had come from a great distance on the east coast, with a large party of heathen, who left her on their return. They related that, at her dwelling-place, the sea never thawed till the kassiggiak (a kind of seal) got their young, which is in the middle of June. As it was too far for these people who live near Staatenhoek to go the merchants near Nennortelik, they traded with the heathen in our neighbourhood, and then hastened home, saying, that the voyage to their place of abode lasted innumerable days.

May 2nd. We had an unexpected cause for rejoicing: fourteen heathen came to us, and desired us to write down their names. Early in the morning, a heathen and his wife came to Brother Kleinschmidt, saying: "Write down our names, for we wish also to be con-"verted." When the Missionary hesitated, and inquired whether they were truly in earnest, he exclaimed: "Make haste, write, there is no doubt of it."

We found that the wife was the woman mentioned above, as left

behind by a northorn party, and whom he had afterwards married. As she is altogether a heathen woman, and never heard the gospel, we were struck with her modest and serious behaviour. She assured us, that her wish to live here originated in an earnest desire to be saved; that she had a mother and five brothers and sisters; and that her former dwelling was on this side the Ice-fiorde (the well-known Forbisher's Straits). The latter, however, was so far distant from her abode, that she had never been there. She likewise related that the Greenlanders living on the opposite side of this Ice-fiorde, frequently cross the straits, and traffic with those nearest Staatenhoek, from whom they obtain various articles, such as knives, needles, &c. which they again barter with those on the other side of the straits. The passage across them is said to be dangerous, and nothing but dire necessity obliges them to make the journey. May a concern for their souls' salvation cause them in due time to find their way to us. Their situation is indeed truly pitiable.

We had scarcely written down the names of this man and his wife, when five more came to request the same favour. They were followed by seven others. Having spoken to them of the way of salvation, we exhorted them to consider well what an important step they were about to take, which is considered by many as an act of great self-denial. They desired to be brought from darkness to to light, and from the power of Satan to the living God. We added that, if they meant to live here, they must forsake all their heathenish ways. That if they could not form such a resolution, they should rather not come to live here, for though we wished to draw the Heathen to us, and win them for our Saviour, we wish that none may desire to live here for outward convenience' sake, but from a sincere desire to be saved.

6*th*. A boat full of our own people from the out-place arrived, and having deposited their produce, informed us that they meant to proceed farther down the coast, to visit the heathen; that four days' journey from hence on the east coast, was a place called Allak, (meaning a place which is to be avoided) to which, in summer, many boats full of heathen come from the eastward; that while they themselves were yet heathen, they always went to meet them, bartering European goods, and vessels of soapstone for their beautiful skins.

On inquiring whether these companies of heathen had never told them how far their dwelling-place was beyond Allak, they said, that, according to the strangers' report, they sat out early in spring, reached Allak in the middle of summer, and as soon as they had finished their bargains hastened home. We asked what disposition they showed? They answered that they were very friendly people, and that now they meant to visit and converse with them as baptized.

The assistants, *John Michael* and his wife, who, but a few years ago, were themselves heathen, and many newly baptized, among

whom was the old angekok, now our Brother *Barzillai*, were of the party. We entreated them when they met the Heathen, to exhort them to come to Christ our Saviour, and to preach to them by their Christian walk and conversation; and assured them of our prayers for the Lord's blessing to attend them.

During the whole of this winter, we have seen very little drift ice.

Remember us, dear Brethren, in your prayers.

JOHN CONRAD KLEINSCHMIDT.

SOUTH AFRICA.

Extract from the Diary of GNADENTHAL, *for the year* 1828.

On the 11*th* of *July*, the married man, *Gottlob Halfslag*, departed into a blessed eternity. He was one of the first converts in the Mission at this place, having been baptized in April, 1798. For several years subsequent to this period, his conduct was marked by occasional deviations from the precepts of the gospel, owing to which, he was not admitted to the Holy Communion, till the year 1810. An evident change now took place with him; his demeanour testified, in a striking manner, what the grace of God can effect upon a sinner who is obedient to the voice of the Holy Spirit. As a member of our Hottentot congregation, he enjoyed general esteem and confidence, as was proved by the circumstance of his having been chosen to fill the office of overseer from the period of the first establishment of this company. He was of a very industrious habit, and even in his 70th year continued to labour in the cultivation of the ground; not only keeping in order his own little premises, but assisting us in the care of our garden and orchard. By this means, he earned sufficient to have it in his power to maintain and educate several orphan children, towards whom he performed the duty of a parent, with exemplary faithfulness. Soon after the commencement of the present year, he began to be ailing, and his strength gradually declined, though without any bodily suffering. He rejoiced at the thought, that his illness would prove the means of his dissolution. A few days before his end, he lost the power of speech, and could only testify by signs, and by a cheerful countenance, the pleasure which the visits of his friends afforded him. Yet he recovered his speech in the sequel, so as to be able to inform the Missionaries that, during the interval of extreme weakness before alluded to, he had experienced so much joy and peace, that he could consider it no otherwise than as a foretaste of the bliss of Heaven. "Nevertheless," added he, "I am willing to wait my Saviour's time; knowing that "when I depart, He will receive me, as a reconciled sinner." In this happy frame of mind, he continued till the hour of his release arrived.

August 10*th*. We had the pleasure to receive a chest containing

50 Bibles and 200 New Testaments, in the Dutch language, as a present from the British and Foreign Bible Society, for the use of our schools. For this generous and most acceptable gift, we beg to return our grateful acknowledgements.

On the 12*th*, departed this life the married woman, *Henrietta Haas*. She was baptized in October, 1809, and became a communicant in March 1812. In the year 1816, she had the grief to lose her first husband, *Solomon Pfeiffer*, who perished during the inundation of one of our mountain torrents; his mutilated remains were not discovered for several days after the accident. She was now left a widow with seven children, and her situation was the more distressing, as during the life time of her industrious husband, neither she nor her family had known what it was to suffer want. Her trust was, however, in the Lord, and He helped her on from day to day beyond her expectations. In the year 1822, she married a second time. Not long after, circumstances occurred which rendered it necessary for the whole family to leave our place. Every one felt the greatest pity for her and her children; the more so, as it was evident that she was greatly distressed about what had happened. She took up her abode in our immediate neighbourhood, and attended the meetings diligently till the year 1824, when we were glad to have it in our power to receive her again. From this period, it was increasingly evident, that the first desire of her heart was to enjoy communion with her God and Saviour, and the privileges of His house. This was especially the case, during the long and painful illness which proved the occasion of her dissolution.

Among the number of her orphan children was a boy, 13 years old, called *Ezekiel Pfeiffer*, who had always distinguished himself at school by uncommon talent, diligence and good behaviour, but who had been latterly employed in tending cattle, for which kind of life he showed not the smallest inclination. With the consent of his step-father, Brother Hallbeck now undertook to give this boy some further instruction, in the hope of qualifying him for the office of a teacher in our school. On the 18*th* of *August*, a particular school was opened with him and another promising youth of the same age.

15*th*. We held a very satisfactory examination of the children belonging to our girls' school. The number present amounted to 123, of whom 68 are able to read. By way of encouragement, we distributed 7 Bibles, and 17 New Testaments, of the stock lately received from England, among the best readers, who expressed the liveliest joy and gratitude on receiving them. To those who were less advanced, we gave some copies of a little work, entitled *The Name of Jesus*, published by some friends at Basel, expressly for the use of Hottentot children. About forty of the oldest pupils quitted the school on this occasion, having been previously commended in fervent prayer to the grace and blessing of the Lord. They will in future receive separate instruction once a-week. On taking leave of their teachers and companions, they were much affected.

30*th*. We had an agreeable visit from Mr. Stoll, treasurer of the colony, and from two naval officers of high rank, who all appeared much interested and gratified with what they saw. It was a particular pleasure to us, to see the first-named gentleman, at Gnadenthal, and to have an opportunity of expressing to him our obligations for the many kind services he has rendered to this Mission.

On the 1*st* day of *September*, we were occupied in conversing individually with our married people, consisting of 137 married couples, 6 men, and 39 women, whose partners were at that time absent. Excepting in the case of two married couples—between whom some misunderstanding had arisen, which we endeavoured to remove —we met with nothing but what was calculated to excite us to heartfelt gratitude to the Lord, for the grace prevailing among the individuals of this numerous company. It is indeed true, that they have yet much to learn, but when we consider the state of the Hottentots in this place, thirty years ago, or even what it is at present in districts where the advantage of religious instruction is not enjoyed, we are astonished at the blessed change which has been effected.

The 7*th* of *September*, which we celebrated as a memorial-day for this division of the congregation, was distinguished by a particular visitation of grace, such as the oldest inhabitants of our place do not recollect to have experienced. In the course of the afternoon, a great number of fathers and mothers of families assembled together on a neighbouring eminence, which affords one of the most interesting views of the settlement; its various buildings, groves and gardens, being marked almost as distinctly as upon a map. This prospect naturally brought to the recollection of the assembled company all the mercies which the Lord had bestowed upon this place and its inhabitants, since the commencement of the Mission. A conversation soon arose among some of the more aged upon this interesting subject, which by degrees became general. They reminded each other of the duty incumbent upon them to glorify Christ their Saviour, by their walk and conversation, and confessed with tears their past deviations and defects. Mutual forgiveness was asked for any offence which had been given, and each pledged his hand to the other in token of the general determination to live alone to Jesus, and to love each other as brethren. Hereupon the whole company began to sing a joyful *Te Deum*, with the accompaniment of several musical instruments; and in this manner they returned to the settlement, where, after singing several verses before the dwellings of the Missionaries, some of their number related to us with great emotion what had taken place. It may easily be imagined, that the whole scene was to us likewise affecting and delightful, in no common degree. This truly festal day was concluded by the baptism of three adults, and the celebration of the Holy Communion.

In the meeting for religious instruction, which we held with the adults of our congreation, on the 8*th* instant, the blessing experienced on the preceding day was a principal theme of conversation. We fervently implore the Lord, that the impression which has thus

been made on the hearts of our dear Hottentots, may be abiding, and that it may be followed by corresponding fruits, to the praise of God.

On *October 3rd*, was the interment of the married woman, *Abigail Dragoner*. She was born at Gnadenthal, on the 14th September, 1799, and baptized in her infancy. In the sequel she attended our school, where she learnt to read well. In the year 1813, she was admitted a member of our congregation, and in 1816 became a communicant. Her marriage took place in the year 1821, since which period, she enjoyed but few days of perfect health, though her demeanor was always cheerful and resigned. Her disorder was the Lazarus sickness, in a milder form, which, in course of time, terminated in a dropsy. During her long and painful illness, she was most faithfully attended by her worthy husband, who spared no means that were within his reach, to effect the restoration of one to whom he was deservedly attached. In regard to her spiritual state, we can declare with truth, that it was most satisfactory. Even from her earliest years, her conduct was such as to afford us equal pleasure and encouragement, the grace of God evidently preserving her from the influence of those hurtful desires, which too often prove the ruin of young persons. There exists, among the members of our congregation, a company of young married women, who have entered into a covenant with each other to be faithful to the Lord, and to train up their children in His nurture and admonition. To this company the deceased belonged, and the benefit resulting from their union and their frequent conversations with each other, was strikingly exemplified in her daily conduct. During her last illness, her New Testament and her hymn-book were her constant companions, and she often expressed her thankfulness for the privileges which she enjoyed of being able to read the Word of God, and derive comfort from it. She knew whom she had believed, and was persuaded, that He was able to keep what she had committed unto Him against that day.

15th. An Irishman of the name of Mackenny, a tanner by trade, came hither in search of work. As we had long wished to make an attempt to establish this business on a small scale, in the hope of affording employment to a few Hottentot families, we made an agreement with the applicant, according to which he engaged to teach some of our people the operation of tanning, for reasonable monthly wages. A commencement of this new branch of industry was accordingly made in the following days, in dependence upon the blessing and support of God our heavenly Father.

The classes of new people, candidates for baptism, and baptized children, having been spoken with individually by Brother Stein and his wife, who were thankful to perceive increased traces of divine life, especially among the new people, we proceeded at our mission-conference, on the *17th*, to appoint the following persons for an advance in the privileges of the Church—seven as candidates for bap-

tism, five for admission to that sacrament, six for reception into the Congregation, and five for re-admission to the same.

19*th*. We celebrated a cheerful and blessed prayer-day; in the course of which, five children beyond the age of infancy, whose parents are members of our congregation, were baptized into the death of Jesus. Their quiet and devout demeanor throughout the whole of the solemn transaction, surprized and edified all present; at a second service, on the same afternoon, five adults were baptized, and eleven received or re-admitted as members of our congregation.

On the 27*th*, a decree of the Colonial Government was made publicly known to our people, agreeably to which all the Hottentots residing within the colony, are henceforth released from every kind of compulsory service, and are admitted to the enjoyment of equal rights with the rest of the inhabitants. In making this announcement, we earnestly besought our Hottentots to act as becometh the children of God, not only by improving to the utmost the privileges now for the first time placed within their reach, but likewise, by carefully abstaining from any abuse of them, in all things demeaning themselves as loyal and obedient subjects, and as useful members of society.

November 10*th*, departed the widow *Deborah Halfslag;* she had attended the praying of the Church Litany on the preceding day; but, before she reached home, was attacked by an apoplectic seizure, and after remaining 24 hours in a state of insensibility, breathed her last. She was baptized in the year 1807, and became a communicant in 1810. For many years she exhibited much unsteadiness of character, of which a naturally bad temper was in a great measure the occasion. Much patience was however exercised towards her, till, in the year 1820, falling into open transgression, she was necessarily excluded, and had to leave our place. She now learnt to know and bewail the plague of her own heart, and to repent bitterly of her neglect and abuse of past privileges. Impelled at length by hunger after the word of life, she returned to Gnadenthal in the beginning of this year, travelling on foot for a great distance, although partially lamed by an apoplectic stroke. We rejoiced to perceive that she was indeed a contrite sinner, and readily granted her permission to become an inhabitant of our place. A few months ago she was re-admitted to the congregation. During her short remaining pilgrimage, it was evident that her whole desire was to live in communion with the Lord, and with His people. We have therefore no doubt that she was prepared for the sudden change which awaited her.

13*th*. We had an agreeable visit from the Rev. Mr. Anderson, Missionary at Pacaltsdorf, and his family, on their way home from Capetown.

22*nd*. We received intelligence of the safe arrival at Altona of our dear Brother and Sister Schmitt, and the four children who accompanied them to Europe.

December 6th. Brother Stein experienced a sudden attack of illness, which at first was considered apoplectic, but which a skilful surgeon from Stellenbosch afterwards pronounced to be of a spasmodic nature. The patient was so much weakened by it, that we all anticipated his departure. Nevertheless, it pleased the Lord to bless the means resorted to for his restoration, even before medical advice could be obtained. Two slighter seizures of the same kind, which occurred before the close of the month, were, however, sufficient to show the necessity of great care and attention to his health for the future.

On the *22nd*, departed, at a very advanced age, the married man *Philip Mooiboy*, who, as long as we have known him, and particularly since his baptism, in 1821, has approved himself as a faithful follower of Jesus, his affectionate and peaceable disposition and godly simplicity being an edification to all around him. During his last illness he afforded a most striking example of the power of divine grace, to produce patience under suffering and child-like resignation to the Lord's will. At the same time his desire evidently was to depart and be with Christ; already mortified to the world and all its enjoyments, he waited with longing for a participation in those joys, which are at the right hand of God for evermore.

Not less edifying were the departures of the single woman *Salome October*, aged 19 years, and the married man, *Joseph Rossouw*, who were shortly after called into eternity. The latter left behind him a widow, with whom he had lived about 50 years in the most happy manner, and a son who is at present a highly respected overseer in our congregation.

The festival of the incarnation of God our Saviour was celebrated with the usual solemnities, and proved a season of rich blessing, not only to ourselves and our Hottentot flock, but also to an unusually large number of visiting friends from the neighbouring country.

On the *31st*, we closed the year in the usual solemn manner, with confession, thanksgiving, and prayer; and felt anew assured of the unchangeable love and faithfulness of that Saviour who abides the same yesterday, to-day and forever.

In the course of the year 1828, our congregation has experienced an increase of 53 persons; 81 persons (children included) have been baptized or received into the congregation; 27 have been admitted to the Holy Communion, and 44 have become candidates for that ordinance. Two couples have been married.

At the close of the year our catalogue exhibited the following numbers: 548 communicants; 90 candidates for the Communion; 134 baptized adults; 389 baptized children; to whom if 41 candidates for baptism and 64 new people be added, the whole number under our care will amount to 1266. Among these are above 200 married couples.

The number of houses in the settlement is 237, of which 105 are walled houses.

We commend ourselves, and the flock we are favoured to serve, to the affectionate remembrance and prayers of all our Brethren and friends.

(Signed) H. P. Hallbeck, J. G. Schultz,
J. F. Stein; D. Luttring.

Extract of Letters from Brother H. P. Hallbeck.

Gnadenthal, *October* 21*st*, 1828.

Dear Brother,

"I gladly avail myself of the present opportunity, to thank you for your affectionate letter of the 14th June, and the welcome intelligence which it contained of the safe arrival of Brother and Sister Schmitt, and our dear children, in England. May the Lord vouchsafe to them His blessing and protection, during the remainder of their journey, and grant that the dear children, whom we have dedicated to Him from their infancy, may be trained up in His nurture and admonition.

"I refer you to the accompanying Diary for various particulars relative to the progress of this Mission. Among other circumstances which it records, you will find, that last week we made an attempt to begin a new branch of industry, and have reason to hope it will succeed. Every year hundreds of sheep-skins and bullock-hides have gone out of Gnadenthal to be tanned, and have been re-purchased at a fourfold price, and we have therefore long wished to establish a tan-yard on a small scale, with a view of providing at least for the demand of the place. When, therefore, on the 15th instant, an Irishman, by trade a tanner, proffered his services, we readily accepted them, and hired him by the month, in hopes, that, by and bye, a Hottentot will be able to manage the concern. Thus far every thing promises well, and if God gives His blessing, upon which all depends, it may be of considerable advantage to the place, by affording employment to several families. At all events we cannot lose much, as we begin on a small scale. Towards the end of September this neighbourhood was parched up with drought, but during the last three or four weeks fine rains have fallen, and there is a better prospect of a tolerable crop, unless the rust destroy our hopes. It is said to have made its appearance beyond Zwellendam. The corn which our friend in Bedford was kind enough to send me, stands healthy, and uncommonly luxuriant, and I hope will enable us to sow more next year. The greatest part of the seed, however, appears to have suffered by the damp of the sea, as it springs up very thin; but it has in consequence had room to spread, and single grains have produced 60, 70, or more ears.

"In my last letter, I mentioned my wish to have a terrestrial

globe for the use of our school†. I am sure you will kindly bear this request in mind. I should likewise be glad to receive a few copies of Holme's History of the Brethren's Church; any copies that may be to spare will, I doubt not, be easily disposed of to visiting friends.

"During my late visit to Capetown, I waited on our new Governor, Sir Lowry Cole, and presented to him a brief statement of the rise, progress, and present state of our mission in this colony, recommending the same to his Excellency's protection, of which I was kindly assured. He promised shortly to honour us with a visit.

November 20th, 1828.

"Since the date of my last, we have received rather distressing intelligence from our dear Brethren in the Tambookie country, concerning which Brother Hoffman makes the following appropriate remark: "I have often observed, that when any thing very good or permanent is to take place in the kingdom of God, some peculiar difficulties are allowed to precede it; in order that the whole world may see and acknowledge, that the work of the Lord cannot be effectually opposed, even though Satan and all the powers of the world should be combined against it."

[Brother Hallbeck then proceeds briefly to relate the circumstances attending the dispersion of the Tambookies in the neighbourhood of the KLIPPLAAT river, and the attack on the Missionary settlement by the Fetkannas, for the details of which see Brother Lemmertz's letter, p. 355.]

"In this whole occurrence, though painful in itself, there is much to excite our gratitude; that no one was killed, or even seriously hurt, on the occasion; that just at the critical moment the military were at hand to take charge of the place, and to establish a permanent guard over the property left behind; that the Missionaries and their people continue cheerful, and are prepared to resume their Mission, as soon as the door is opened again to them: all these are circumstances which call for our fervent thanksgivings. In regard to the latter point, the Hottentot, *Henry Beukes*, has set an example of devotedness worthy of being recorded. Shortly after the arrival of the fugitive party at the military station on Klaas Smitt's river, Brother Lemmertz asked him, whether he was willing to return to the Klipplaat. Apparently astonished at the question, he replied: "Yes, Sir, and not only to the Klipplaat, but I hope one day to assist in bringing the gospel to the poor Fetkannas themselves." So speaks a Hottentot, with a wife and family, who narrowly escaped with his life, after losing nearly all his wordly substance. Ought not such a noble spirit in a poor Hottentot to speak loudly to many a

† We are happy to be able to state that this wish has been already gratified, through the liberality of some friends. A globe of 18 inches diameter, has been kindly presented to the Mission, and forwarded several months ago.

professing Christian in more civilized countries, who, from an excessive attachment to the things of this world, declines, or at least hesitates, to contribute either in person or substance to the advancement of Christ's kingdom.

"The event to which I have alluded, is a severe disappointment to us all: yet I feel assured, that the Lord will mercifully overrule it for good. There is now at Capetown an ambassador from Chaka, who is very anxious to live on friendly terms with the colonists; so that we may indulge the hope of seeing a termination to those disturbances, which for so many years have rendered the Tambookie country insecure. It is likewise ascertained, that the tribes against whom our soldiers fought in July and August, were not Chaka's people, but Mansouties, who have been roving about for a length of time.

"My last letters from Enon were of the 6th October, at which date the Missionaries were all well. They complained, however, that, owing to the excessive drought, the pump had long been at a stand, and the gardens altogether unproductive, for want of the necessary irrigation.

"In Elim, the Missionaries are likewise well, and the work of the Lord is prospering. Twenty-five houses are either finished or in course of erection. The new mill works well, and the Hottentots have the whole of the water of the stream at their disposal, for the irrigation of their gardens. Another clear fountain has been led to the very door of the new house, and affords increased conveniences to the missionary family.

"At Hemel-en-Aarde I paid a visit about a fortnight ago. Brother Leitner and his wife were well, and active in their important service. Their station may indeed be called important, especially in consideration of the great mortality among the patients, who may truly be denominated candidates for eternity. The Church-books show that nearly one-fourth of the population dies every year; each patient, therefore, on an average lives there only four years. During his abode at the institution, Brother Leitner has baptized 91 adults and 18 children; 15 of the former and nine of the latter in the course of the present year.

"At Groenekloof Brother Clemens has recovered from a fit of the gout; Brother Tietze was also subject to rheumatism, though still active in his service. The farmers have begun cutting oats and barley, and promise themselves a middling crop; no complaints of the rust are heard, but the interior of the colony is parched up with an unexampled drought. Our little tanning business, of which my last letter made mention, is going on well, and I hope thereby to have procured steady employment for a few families of the place. A number of sheep-skins for trowsers are finished, and have turned out very good.

"Frequent rains within the last two months have done a great deal of good to our orchards, gardens, and plantations. Yesterday we received your portrait, presented to us by our kind friend, Mr. Tate; it now adorns our library. The report spread throughout the village,

that Mr. La Trobe was here, and soon a crowd collected. Though disappointed in one respect, they were highly delighted at seeing the likeness, and truly astonished at the cleverness of the *vaderlans-kerl* who made it: nothing, they observed, was wanting, but a living ghost to make it speak.

"At the last communion, 18 persons were present as spectators, of whom 8 are now under preparation for the first enjoyment. In general, the course of our congregation is highly pleasing, and I do not remember a year in which we had so many encouragements and so few unpleasant occurrences as that which is now closing. To God alone be the glory!

December 22nd, 1828.

"My last letter mentioned, that a severe trial had befallen the mission among the Tambookies, by a repeated attack made, as is supposed, by a gang of Fetkannas. The Missionaries during their retreat to Klaas Smitts river, were made useful there, both to the white people, and to the Hottentots; and had not only large auditories at their meetings both on Sundays and week-days, but also a well attended school of white and brown children. Of the Fetkannas nothing further has been seen or heard; and Brother Lemmertz, with the Hottentots and Caffres, returned to the Klipplaat river on November 21st, and expected to be joined by Brother Hoffman and the two Sisters, on the 4th of December; and on the following Sunday, a great number of Tambookies attended the meetings. Various circumstances, however, made Brother Lemmertz look into futurity with some anxiety; for instance, the soldiers stationed on the Klipplaat river were expected to be removed within the boundaries of the colony, the Caffre chief, Machomo, was said to be on bad terms with the Tambookies, and threatened to take their cattle, and do them other injury. I have therefore, by the last post, reported the situation of the Missionaries to the Colonial Government, and am in hopes that effectual measures may be adopted, to protect the Tambookies and their Missionaries.

"The unexampled drought still continues, one half of the cattle, both oxen and sheep, have in consequence perished in many parts of the country. Even the famous Orange river is dried up; but the beautiful Klipplaat still flows with a steady stream. That river is an invaluable treasure; and if ever that portion of Africa is destined to be properly peopled, its banks must be the principal place of resort. At Enon, the mill and pump have been long at a stand, and the gardens, both of the missionaries and the Hottentots, are waste; but Brother Fritsch has continued to lead out the water on the eastern bank of the Witte river, where the yellow-wood grove stands, in the hope of forming new and more productive gardens. Up to the 6th of this month, all the Brethren and Sisters at Enon were well.

"The Bedford wheat is now getting ripe, and has uncommonly heavy ears; but I am sorry to say, that it is affected by the rust,

though that disease is not generally met with this year. However, it made its appearance too late in the season to do much harm to the grain.

"We are now beginning to look out for the Brethren Meyer and Lehman, whose appointment to the service of this Mission has been some time ago announced to us; and we pray that they may become useful labourers in this part of the Lord's vineyard. Several changes will probably take place among the Brethren at our various stations, upon their arrival.

"It gives me much satisfaction to be able to report, that the course of our congregation at this place is in general very encouraging. I could give you a long list of individuals, who, in the course of the year now closing, have, to all human appearance, become quite altered characters, their walk and conversation testifying that the word of the cross is indeed the power of God unto salvation to all them that believe. You will see, from our Diary, that our congregation has experienced an increase of 53 persons, during the year 1828: it amounts at present to 1266, of whom 550 are communicants. You will recollect, that, on the 18th August, I began to give instruction in various branches of useful knowledge to two boys, in the hope of qualifying them one day for the office of assistants in our school. On the 18th of this month, I examined them in the presence of our Missionary family, and it was found that, in the space of four months, they had acquired the elements of mathematical, physical, and political geography; and could with ease and promptness solve questions in arithmetic, including the four first rules, both simple and compound, reduction, and the rule of three. I cherish the hope that they will, in due time, repay, by their usefulness to others, the pains now bestowed upon their education. The harvest is now nearly finished, and turns out rather below an average crop. Grain, though not very dear, will probably rise considerably in price, and I am therefore glad that our family is supplied for a year to come at a very moderate cost, about three shillings sterling for a Winchester bushel of the best wheat. Our vineyards thus far promise well, and likewise the orchards, with the exception of the pear trees, which appear to enjoy a year of rest.

"It is now upwards of eleven years since I landed in Africa, and, when on the anniversary of my arrival, last week, I was led to review this period of time, being just one fourth of my whole life, I found abundant cause to thank the Lord for His mercies, but at the same time to humble myself at His feet, and pray for more faithfulness, zeal, and humility, in following His blessed precepts and doing His work. If we had but at all times a lively sense of His deep humiliation for our sakes, how much more devoted to Him should we be, how much more ready to perform whatever he requires of us, although, perhaps, by no means agreeable to flesh and blood.

January 8th, 1829.

"The late celebration of the Christmas festival was attended by

more visitors than usual, but the extraordinary heat, on the 31st of December, prevented many of our friends being with us at the close of the year. We counted, on this occasion, only six wagon companies, besides a considerable number of persons on horseback and on foot. These solemn days, as well as the festival of Epiphany, on the 6th January, were seasons of great blessing to our whole congregation; and my wife and myself, who are just engaged in speaking individually with our people, find much cause to thank the Lord for what He has done, and is still doing for them.

"The excessive drought still continues, and is productive of much distress throughout the colony. The Bavians revier is much lower than ever I have seen it, so that our mill cannot grind more than half the quantity of corn which it usually does; at the same time, the number of our customers increases, in the same proportion that the supply of water diminishes, the majority of our neighbours being in a worse situation than ourselves; we find it therefore quite impossible to help all the applicants. If it does not please the Lord soon to send us a refreshing shower, the gardens of our Hottentots will suffer greatly for want of moisture, which has never yet been the case since I came to live at Gnadenthal. On Sunday next, seven persons will be admitted as candidates for baptism; nine will be baptized; and eight received into the congregation.

"Elim has at present 143 inhabitants. Twelve adults were baptized there in the course of last year.

"We are all, thank God, well in health, and live in the enjoyment of peace and harmony, which makes all our labour light. May our gracious Master continue to bless all our feeble labours in His service, and cause His name to be glorified in and by us.

"We commend ourselves to your faithful remembrance and intercession.

H. P. Hallbeck.

From Brother A. Clemens.

Groenekloof, *November* 21, 1828.

"Your last kind letter, of the 2nd of March, I had the pleasure to receive on the 19th of June. Its contents proved equally interesting and encouraging, as they not only afforded much information on various subjects, but also conveyed to us the assurance of your affectionate participation in all the concerns of this mission.

"The congregation of Hottentots which we have the favour to serve, has continued to experience, during the year now drawing to a close, much mercy and patience at the hand of our faithful Saviour.

"Truly may we say, that we account the long suffering of the Lord to be our salvation; for many have been our failings, and numberless our infirmities. In this portion of Africa, civilization is certainly making considerable progress among the natives; but alas!

the benefit which it confers is greatly alloyed by a corresponding increase of moral evil. Of this we are often painfully reminded, owing to the peculiar situation of this place, and the naturally feeble and unsteady character of the Hottentot population of the surrounding district. But few genuine Hottentots are to be found in this neighbourhood; the bulk of the inhabitants are a mixed race, more vicious in their habits, and equally ignorant of what it is most important to know, but possessing a high opinion of their own attainments. Yet we have many cheering proofs, that even such persons are not beyond the reach of divine grace; the Holy Spirit convinces them of sin, and leads them to the foot of the cross, where they experience, of a truth, that Jesus receiveth sinners. Over such we can sincerely rejoice, while the indifference and unfaithfulness of others cause us to mourn: meanwhile it is our consolation, that the Lord knoweth them that are His; from time to time, we are cheered by perceiving that fruit is produced to His glory, where we had been led to fear that the seed of divine truth had long been sown in vain. O that these proofs of the mercy and power of our blessed Master were more deeply impressed on the hearts of us His feeble servants, exciting us at once to greater patience, and to increased diligence in caring for the souls committed to our ministry.

"During the year 1828, we have enjoyed the gracious help of the Lord, in the management of the external affairs of this Mission. Our numbers being reduced by the appointment of Brother Hoffman to the service of the Tambookie Mission, and those who remained suffering more or less from ill health, we have at times felt ourselves rather heavily burdened: yet we can say with truth, that hitherto we have lacked nothing. Our fields have yielded us, this year, a tolerable good crop, both of oats and barley, for which we are truly thankful to our Heavenly Father.

"In the early part of September, we had the honour to receive a visit from our highly respected Governor, General Bourke, with his lady and daughter, and one of his aid-de-camps. The party remained with us eight days, and were pleased to express themselves much gratified with their visit. At taking leave, the Governor generously presented us with a donation of 300 Cape dollars, towards the support of the mission. May the Lord reward him abundantly, not only for this generous gift, but also for the uniform favour and protection he has extended to the cause of missions in this colony.

"Were you to repeat your visit at Groenekloof; you would find many things altered; in general, I hope for the better: our little wood is now cleared of bushes, seats are erected in an open place, in front of our house door, and a road has been carried from this place into the Hottentot village, and thence across the wagon road, into the oak wood, where benches have likewise been placed. All has been done in the plainest and simplest style, as best corresponding with our means and with the character of our institution; yet we had a particular pleasure in exhibiting these improvements, secondary as they may seem, to our worthy friend, Mr. Hancke, and a party

from Cape-town, who gave us a call the other day. Remember us in your prayers, and the Congregation we are favoured to serve. I am your affectionate Brother,

A. CLEMENS.

From Brother JOHN LEMMERTZ.

KLAAS SMITT'S REVIER, *Nov. 4th*, 1828.

MY DEAR BROTHER,

"On the 11th of October I returned from my visit to Enon, and found to my regret, that the Tambookies had, for the most part, retired from the neighbourhood of the Klipplaat, partly in consequence of the continued drought, and partly from fear of the Fetkannas. At the same time Lieutenant Warden had withdrawn the two dragoons formerly stationed here for our protection, supposing that all was safe. We were thus left in comparative solitude, the nearest company of Tambookies residing about six miles to the westward of us.

"About the 20th inst. we began to be apprehensive for the safety of our cattle, and we determined to station two of our Hottentots for their protection, one having been hitherto deemed sufficient. On the 21st, about 10 o'clock in the morning, several shots were heard; two of our Hottentot women, who were at work in the garden, immediately ran towards the spot where the report seemed to originate, and were soon followed by several men. In a short time a son of Bowana, who had been hunting in that neighbourhood, arrived on horseback, and brought us the distressing intelligence, that the Fetkannas had carried off the whole of our cattle. Our concern at this disaster was somewhat alleviated on seeing our herdsmen, and the Hottentots who had gone in search of them, return to us unhurt. We lost, on this occasion, 37 head of cattle and six horses, valued at about 1200 dollars; of these, five oxen and three horses belonged to the Missionaries, and the remainder to our Hottentots. Information of what had taken place was immediately forwarded to Lieutenant Warden, the officer in command on Klaas Smitt's river, who shortly after arrived and scoured the country with his dragoons, but to no purpose. On the 22nd, Brother Hoffman arrived with our wagon and a span of bullocks from Enon, where he had been unexpectedly but providentially detained. Had not this been the case, our remaining cattle would also have fallen into the hands of the robbers.

"Our herdsmen, on their return, reported that they had been suddenly attacked by eight Fetkannas, whom, notwithstanding their superior numbers they might probably have repelled, had they deemed themselves justified in taking away their lives, since they had the advantage of being well armed.

"On the 24th, about nine o'clock in the evening, the barking of the dogs gave notice, that strangers were approaching our little settlement. Several of our people immediately went out of their houses, thinking that Lieutenant Warden and his dragoons were arrived,

but soon discovered by the light of a clear moon, that a body of Fetkannas, about 60 in number, had forced their way into the place. One of the invaders bore a fire-brand, probably with the intention of setting fire to the houses. *Hendrick Beukes*, one of the most respectable of our Hottentots, narrowly escaped being knocked on the head, as he was opening the door of his hut. In the confusion which ensued, several shots were fired, apparently, however, without any effect; and in a short time, to our surprise, as well as thankfulness, our enemies betook themselves to flight. Our Caffres understood them to say to each other as they retired, "We were told that the people here were but few, but we find they are many." We had, however, in fact but eleven men in the settlement, so that if the Lord had not Himself interposed for our protection, our dwellings might easily have been burnt, our remaining cattle taken, and our own lives sacrificed.

"After the alarm produced by this encounter had somewhat subsided, we called together our people, admonished them to depend in future rather on the Lord's help, than upon our own means of self defence, and then kneeling down with them, commended ourselves to His mercy and protection. We felt resigned to His gracious dispensation, whether it might be for life or for death.

"The remainder of the night passed undisturbed. On the following day, Lieutenant Warden arrived with eleven dragoons, after a fruitless pursuit of the invaders. He immediately proposed to leave six of his men with us for the protection of our persons and property; but, after considering all the circumstances of our situation, we thought it adviseable, rather to leave the place for a season, and take refuge at the military post on Klaas Smitt's river. We accordingly took the necessary steps for our removal, packing up the lighter articles, and burying in the earth those which could not be transported without great difficulty. We then assembled once more together, brought the Lord our tribute of heartfelt thanksgiving for the mercy which we had experienced, and commended ourselves and the work committed to us, to His future blessing.

"Besides the British officer and his dragoons, Bowana, with many of the neighbouring Tambookies, attended this service, and seemed greatly affected at the idea of the separation about to ensue.

"That it was not without emotions of deep regret, that *we* quitted the banks of the Klipplaat, you will readily conceive: we felt, however, a conviction in our hearts, that we should soon see them again. Our journey to Klaas Smitt's river lasted till the 31st of October, owing partly to the necessity of making a considerable circuit, in order to avoid the Fetkannas. At the military post, we were welcomed in the kindest and most hospitable manner by Lieutenant Warden and Doctor Gaulter; the latter generously gave up his own house, to accommodate Brother Hoffman and myself, with our wives; and the Lieutenant willingly granted us the use of the barracks, for the performance of divine service; to which the soldiers, and all who choose to attend, are regularly summoned by the

beat of the drum. On the 2nd of November, we had an auditory of above 60 persons, both whites and Hottentots, who all behaved with much devotion. This very day we have likewise opened a school for children, at the request of several of the neighbouring farmers; on which, although it may probably continue but for a short time, we pray the Lord to lay His blessing. Ten children of Europeans, and ten of Hottentot parents, already attend it. In these, as well as in the previous circumstances of this otherwise painful dispensation, we cannot but gratefully acknowledge the providential direction and goodness of the Lord. May He grant us the favour even here to be the means of gaining some souls for Him.

"All the individuals composing our small flock, 24 in number, old and young, are steadfast in their determination to continue with us, and to return to the Klipplaat, as soon as possible. When we put this question pointedly to our communicants, they answered without hesitation in the affirmative, adding—"We would rather go to-day than to-morrow;" and *Hendrick Beukes*, who has sustained a loss amounting to about 900 dollars, in the course of the last few weeks, his whole stock of cattle, consisting of 19 oxen and six horses, having been carried off by the Fetkannas, or devoured by the lions, cheerfully assured us, that he hoped to be permitted, not only to return to the Tambookies, but, at some future time, to assist in bringing the gospel to the poor Fetkannas themselves. You may imagine how much we were delighted and encouraged by this exhibition of the true missionary spirit. We see in the instance of this man, who was formerly a wild dragoon, what the grace of God can effect upon the human heart. When I compare myself with him, I feel ashamed of my own deficiencies. The Lord will, we doubt not, bless and reward him abundantly.

"I feel that it is unnecessary to commend to your kind participation, and to that of our dear British friends, the circumstances of this Mission. Nor shall we fail to experience that benevolent support, and to enjoy those fervent supplications at the throne of grace, which, on former occasions, have been so cheerfully afforded, and have tended so powerfully to our encouragement.

KLIPPLAAT-RIVER, *Jan. 7th*, 1829.

"It is with heart-felt joy and gratitude that I am again enabled to announce our return to this place, on the 21st of November, although our little colony consists at present only of our own Hottentots, the Tambookies having withdrawn from this neighbourhood. The reason they assigned for their removal is the extreme drought, and consequent scarcity of pasturage; but we have lately had fruitful showers, and the growth of the herbage giving promise of abundant provision for cattle, it will, ere long, be apparent whether they have stated the true cause. We must not be surprised if the result should prove, that they have as yet no ears for the reception of the gospel. Our situation is, meanwhile, in some respects discouraging; not only because we are again exposed to the irruptions of the Fetkan-

nas, who still hover about the frontier, but likewise because the Tambookies appear to be at variance with each other; which may possibly be one cause of their retiring farther up the country. We can therefore, under present circumstances, do little but commend them to the Lord, that He would incline their hearts to feel a true hunger for the word of life, and hasten the period which shall prove to them the accepted time, and the day of salvation. He knows, that we are earnestly desirous to gain some of these benighted heathen for Him, as the reward of the travail of His soul; but He also knows best both when and how to work, and we are willing to wait His time.

"Of our small company of Hottentots, we can with truth declare, that their walk continues worthy of the gospel. Their daily prayer is for the conversion of the Tambookies. Our interpreter, who is a native of this country, and who has been a member of our congregation for twenty years, often exclaims—'O that the Lord would grant me the favour to be the means of making one of my countrymen acquainted with Him, and with His salvation. I should indeed rejoice.'

"Remember us, dear Brethren, in your prayers, for we feel that we have need of them; and believe me your ever affectionate Brother,

JOHN LEMMERTZ.

WEST INDIES.

JAMAICA.

Extracts of Letters from Brother JOHN ELLIS.

FAIRFIELD, *Jan. 2nd*, 1829.

DEAR BROTHER,

"I have to thank you for your welcome letter of the 5th November, with inclosures, from all of which we derived much interesting intelligence, relative to the progress of the kingdom of God, both in christendom, and among the nations of the gentile world.

"One portion of your letter led me to consider, with more attention than I have perhaps been accustomed to do, the natural beauties with which we are here surrounded on every side, and which, with the general salubrity of the atmosphere, in this district of Jamaica, contribute not a little to our daily comfort and enjoyment.

"We are indeed delightfully situated, and the view which our little settlement commands is equally varied and extensive. It stands nearly at the summit of a high mountain, with the sea twelve miles distant; to the south of which we overlook a large extent of country, having the so-called Savannah-plains for a foreground. These plains consist of pasture land, interspersed with several hundred clumps of trees, that appear to us like game preserves in a gentleman's park. A little farther westward, begin the Santa Cruz mountains, which

run nearly parallel to our May-day range, about ten miles apart, are nearly equal in height, and also, like ours, studded with coffee plantations. The tract of land between the two ranges is a beautifully varied Savannah, consisting of pasture, guinea-grass, woodland, provision grounds, rocks and distant cane pieces, intermingled in a most picturesque manner. The clumps of rock, covered with tall trees, form the boundary-line for the cultivator and planter. Towards the northwest, however, our view is still more extended and extraordinary, consisting of distant undulating tracts, one hill behind the other, to the horizon. While these beauties of creation exhibit the greatness and goodness of God, the scene is still further brightened to the Christian, when he can fix his eye on different portions of the prospect, and say, here a conquest was gained for our Sovereign Lord—there the Sun of Righteousness has begun to shine—on yonder hill a house has been built for the worship of our God—and so on. Within the few last years, we have had the favour to see several such bright specks appear, and we continue to pray that many more may yet be seen in our day.

"But you will wish to know how we have closed the old, and begun the new year. I am happy to say we have continued to enjoy the guardian care of our God, being blessed with a tolerable state of health, with the exception of Brother and Sister Pfeiffer, and Sister Light, who have been more or less ailing towards the end of the year, but all of whom, according to the latest accounts, are better. Here in Fairfield the meetings; during the Christmas season have been well attended, and we trust have been blessed to the hearts of the assembled worshippers. Several new people have come from a considerable distance, who had not, according to their own declaration, attended any place of worship for many years previously. Among these are some free persons from the Savanna plains, in which quarter we have hopes to establish a school for the instruction of their children, who at present are literally running wild.

"Our Sunday-school here continues to be tolerably well attended. Several of the scholars gave testimony, during the Christmas holidays, when questioned as to the proficiency they had made, and called upon to repeat hymns, &c. that the labour bestowed on them had not been in vain.

"In the year 1828, the following persons have been added to the several classes of our congregation—Baptized or received adults, 105; children baptized, 60; candidates for the communion, 105; communicants, 88; re-admitted to the congregation, 12; to the communion, 5. Twelve persons have departed, and 29 have been excluded. The congregation consists of 584 communicants; 107 candidates for the communion; 155 baptized adults; 291 baptized children—In all, 1137 persons. The classes of new people and candidates remain the same as last year.

"At New Eden, Brother and Sister Pfeiffer continue to labour in blessing. Their congregation, at the close of the year, consisted of the following:—Communicants, 385; baptized, and candidates for

the communion, 338; baptized children, 203; new people and candidates for baptism, 253. Total, 1179.

"At NEW CARMEL the congregation also continues to increase, and, we trust, most of the members grow in grace, under the care of Brother Scholefield. At the close of the year, their numbers were as follows:—Communicants, 9; baptized adults, 97; new people and candidates, 394; besides about 45, who are regularly spoken with at MESOPOTAMIA, and who are desirous to enjoy the privileges of the congregation. I have not yet received the account of IRWIN congregation, but am glad to find, by Brother Light's letters, that the evening meetings have of late been better attended than usual.

"On the 3d of December, my dear wife and myself were rejoiced by the birth of another daughter; both mother and child are doing well.

March 7th, 1829.

"In my last, I believe, I mentioned to you something of a race of free people residing on the Savannah plains, stating that we had hopes to begin a school among them. Since that time, we have, by making several visits to them, become better acquainted, both with the people and with the tract of country they inhabit. It is that same extensive district which I mentioned as forming a part of our view to the south, and appearing like a widely-extended lawn studded with clumps of trees. In or near each clump, we find a cottage which gives the whole an interesting appearance. We had not made many visits before we perceived the nakedness of the land, as it regards religious instruction. That we found, however, a degree of willingness, and, in some, even a desire to be taught, was more than we expected; as we had been previously informed that they were notorious for their vicious habits. Our first object was to seek out a place for a school, and a person suitable to act as a teacher. The former we had soon offered, either on a lease or sale, on tolerably reasonable terms: viz. a building sufficiently large for a schoolhouse, and a dwelling for the teacher; if let, to pay £20 per annum rent; if purchased, the price to be £45 currency. As the offer was greatly in favour of purchasing, we agreed to obtain it in that way. The building is constructed of wooden posts, with wattle-work between. The name of the place is Somerset. The procuring of a suitable person as teacher, we found not quite so easy; as the people all agreed that none of their own number was capable of the task; but we have since succeeded in engaging a young married man, who promises to interest himself in the improvement of the pupils; so that, on the 16th of February, a day-school was opened, which is now attended by 22 children and youths, besides a few adults who attend in the evening. Brother Zorn and myself have agreed to visit the place regularly once a fortnight, for religious instruction to the children, besides intermediate visits, as occasion might require, to see that proper discipline is maintained. Hitherto, when we have made our stated visits, we have found, besides the pupils, from twenty to

thirty adults assembled, whom we have addressed on the subject of their immortal concerns, and who have listened to us with great attention. Several of this number have also begun to attend our church at Fairfield, on Sundays, coming a distance of seven or eight miles. We hope the means used may have the desired effect, and humbly crave an interest in the prayers of our Christian friends, in behalf of this new undertaking.

Our Sunday-school in Fairfield is somewhat more regularly attended than was the case in the beginning, and the progress of the children is, consequently, more to our satisfaction. We have also met with two or three well-disposed young men, who, having been educated themselves, feel a pleasure in imparting a like benefit to others, and have volunteered their services as Sunday-school teachers. We must, however, beg you to procure us a fresh supply of spelling-books. We meet with some encouragement to open a day-school in Fairfield also, which institution, if we can effect it, will be attended with various advantages.

With regard to the mission generally, I can again bear testimony with a thankful heart, that our labours continue to be blessed to the hearts of many, who have chosen that good part, which shall not be taken from them. At present, both ourselves and our fellow labourers are tolerably well. Sister Scholefield has been ailing, but the last accounts of her were favourable. Brother Pfeiffer is still visited occasionally by intermittent fever, so that he has not gained his wonted strength. He has derived considerable benefit from change of air, having lately made a visit of a few weeks, with his wife and little boy, to New Carmel and Irwin. Brother and Sister Zorn, in the meantime, performed the duties of the station at New Eden.

"At New Carmel, Brother Scholefield begins to find his field of labour greater than he is alone able to cope with. We have engaged to officiate for him when he visits Mesopotamia on Sundays, but yet we think an additional couple will soon be found necessary.

"My dear fellow labourers beg to join me in thanking you kindly for the fresh supply of Missionary Registers, Periodical Accounts, &c. &c. which we have lately received. How encouraging to find by these reports that our great and heavenly King is daily extending His borders, and gaining new conquests! Please to remember us all in kind love to the Society for the Furtherance of the Gospel, and believe me ever to remain your affectionate Brother,

JOHN ELLIS.

From Brother J. T. LIGHT.

IRWIN, *February 9th*, 1829.

MY DEAR BROTHER,

"Your welcome letter of November 20th, came to hand on the 12th of last month; it proved a refreshment to my spirit, and encouraged me to proceed in childlike dependence on our Saviour's

support and blessing. Since the date of my last, appearances have not equalled my, perhaps, too sanguine expectation; at times, I have felt how much I have need of patience, that, after having done the will of God, I might receive the promise. The work in which we are engaged is, and must remain, a work of faith. The Lord, whose servants we are, and on whom our sole reliance is placed, knows best both how and when to subdue all things unto Himself. We are indeed delighted with our little church at Irwin-hill, and long to see it more frequently filled with devout hearers. A Sunday seldom passes without one or more strangers being present. Our little flock certainly enjoy the favour conferred upon them, and express themselves with grateful hearts, wishing that the best of blessings may be the portion of those dear friends, who have contributed towards the erection of this house.

"It is now crop-time, when we must not look for a numerous attendance at church. I cannot help expressing my wish that I may still live to see the Sunday appropriated also in these islands as a day of religious rest; and for this I believe the negroes are in a state of gradual preparation. I likewise hope, ere long, to be able to commence a regular Sunday-school. Difficulties may be expected to arise, but they may, I think, be overcome by time and patience. It is indeed our bounden duty, if the Lord is pleased to grant us the needful health and strength, to make some increased effort for the good of the rising generation. I have just had the pleasure to receive a present of children's books, cards, &c. from Brother Ramftler, sent us by some members of the congregation at Bristol. I am delighted with them, and hope soon to express our gratitude for this valuable gift in a more direct manner. Meanwhile we beg you kindly to convey our thanks.

"On a review of the past year, we can declare with truth, that many have been our mercies, and few our trials. Among the latter, the most serious was the illness of my dear wife, who suffered for several weeks from inflammation in the eyes, by which the sight of her left eye has been considerably impaired. In externals, we have, with the other inhabitants of this colony, experienced the goodness of a bountiful Providence. Provisions have been abundant, more plentiful than has been known for several years past, and we have been mercifully preserved from harm, during the hurricane season; so that, with the exception of some of the aged and infirm, few of those around us have suffered either from want or sickness. Among the favours conferred upon us during the year past, we cannot forget especially to enumerate the erection of a house of prayer on Irwin-hill, which we trust will be made the appointed means of much good to the inhabitants of this district. We beg most cordially to thank all those dear and highly respected friends, who have so generously contributed towards the expense of this undertaking; and we trust neither they nor ourselves will ever have cause to repent this combined exertion in behalf of our ignorant fellow creatures.

"The spiritual state of our little flock is, on the whole, encoura-

ging. If we have to mourn over the unfaithfulness of some, there are others over whom we truly rejoice in spirit. I think, I may say, that there is a general desire among our people to grow in grace, and in the love and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. In the course of the year 1828, 14 adults and 25 children have been baptized; 3 adults have been received into the congregation, 13 have been admitted to the Lord's Supper, 11 have become candidates for that privilege, 6 couples have been married, 9 individuals have departed, and 5 have been disowned.

"At the close of the year, our congregation consisted of 88 communicants, 76 baptized and received members, 228 baptized children, 65 candidates for baptism:—Total 457. All of whom, with ourselves, we commend to your affectionate remembrance and prayers.

J. T. Light.

ANTIGUA.

From Brother S. Wright.

Gracehill, *January 22nd*, 1829.

Dear Brother,

"By the date of this letter, you will see that we have been called to another sphere of service in this mission. It was not without feelings of regret that we quitted Newfield, where our labours, though of no very long duration, were blessed to our own hearts, and, I trust, were also made the means of blessing to the flock committed to our charge. We can declare with gratitude to the Lord, that the precious seed of the Gospel has not been scattered altogether in vain. The school-house lately erected has been of great advantage to us in our efforts for the instruction of the rising generation; and the attendance of our scholars has been pretty regular. We were particularly pleased with the behaviour of the children on the several estates, which we were in the habit of witnessing from time to time. On the two plantations, Lyons and Elliots, evening schools have been established, for which we furnish candles, and they are frequented by many children. I may also mention the children on Lavington estate, who look up to us as parents. As you ask for details, I will relate to you a pleasing circumstance which occurred last year. I was called to see a little boy on Elliots, about 8 or 9 years old, who was thought to be near his end. His expressions were those of an experienced believer; he was perfectly resigned to our Saviour's will, and manifested the utmost patience, though in a state of extreme suffering. His Testament lay on one side of him, and his Hymn-book on the other, and he read out of them alternately. He expressed his thanks to the Lord that he had been brought to Newfield, where he had learnt to know himself as a sinner, and Jesus, as the Friend of sinners. When I asked him if I should pray with

him, he replied, O yes, but let us sing a little first; he then himself gave out the hymn—"*Let me dwell on Golgotha,*" in a manner so affecting, that all present, including his parents and several other relatives, were moved to tears. I need not tell you with what a warm heart I commended him to the Friend of children. Shortly after, he gently fell asleep in Jesus. His father is a chapel-servant, and a teacher in the school.

"Here, at Gracehill, the school is in a flourishing state, and has evidently been well cared for by the teachers; but a school-house is much wanted. The age and infirmity of our late venerable Brother Procop, and the circumstance of his successor having to undertake, without assistance, the charge of this numerous congregation, have hitherto prevented the erection of such a building; but I hope we shall, ere long, be able to undertake it.

March 8th, 1829.

"I proceed to give you some further information relative to the congregation belonging to this place. I assure you, we have here an extensive field of labour. Our numbers at the close of 1828 were as follows: 1058 communicants, 592 baptized, 450 baptized children, 296 candidates for baptism or reception, 420 new people, and about 300 who are at present under church discipline; making a total of 3116 souls under our care. O remember us in your prayers! for we feel our insufficiency to minister to the spiritual wants of so great a multitude. It is very perceptible that the seed sown by our predecessors has not been sown in vain, but that many plants are already ripe for harvest. Of this I was anew convinced during a visit which I paid last Wednesday to a number of our aged and infirm people who live in or near English Harbour. Brother Eberman, who is now on his way from St. Croix to Tobago, accompanied me on this occasion, and our hearts were so much refreshed by what we heard, that I assure you we forgot all our fatigue: at the same time, I must confess, with sorrow, that we have some among our numbers, who are lukewarm, or even spiritually dead. May the Lord have mercy upon them!

"Our services, especially on Sundays, have of late been well attended, and our Sunday-school affords us much encouragement. It is frequented, on an average, by about one hundred children. Our two principal teachers are well qualified, and appear truly devoted to their work.

"But I must not forget to tell you in what state our Mission-premises are at present. The mere description will, I am confident, excite the sympathy of our kind English friends, and incline them to come to our assistance. In the first place, then, the church is in a half-ruinous condition, the timbers being almost devoured by the wood-lice or ants. The roof is nearly quite rotten, as are likewise the doors and window shutters. The dwelling house is threatened with like destruction by these busy but mischievous creatures, their ravages being only to be counteracted by the utmost vigilance and

labour. As to our out-premises, &c. they can hardly be said any longer to exist.

"My worthy colleague, Brother Bayne, labours hard to assist me in checking the progress of this wide spreading desolation, but I sometimes fear that our efforts will be in vain, and that the buildings will, ere long, fall into a state of entire decay; at the same time, the roads in this neighbourhood are so bad, that the conveyance of the lumber and stones, necessary for the intended repairs, will be a work of the greatest difficulty. The expense of putting this place into a decent habitable condition, will be considerable, though the utmost economy be used; and that it shall be used, I venture to pledge myself.

"We are all, through Divine mercy, at present enjoying a tolerable state of health, for which we cannot sufficiently express our thankfulness. May we have grace to labour while it is day: for the night cometh, when no man can work. Remember us affectionately to the Brethren of the Society for the Furtherance of the Gospel, and to all our friends and well wishers, and believe me, &c.

S. WRIGHT.

ST. KITTS.

From Brother J. JOHANSEN.

BASSETERRE, *January* 24, 1829.

DEAR BROTHER,

"Accept my sincere thanks for your welcome letter of November 5th, which contained many interesting particulars, well calculated to refresh the spirit of a Missionary, who has been, for the space of nineteen years, confined to a narrow island in the vast Atlantic, at a distance from all those connections, which in early life had attached him to the land of his birth. To revisit that land, and to enjoy once more the society of those friends and relatives, whom the hand of death has spared, would, I confess, afford me pleasure; but when I look around me at the extensive field in which my Lord and Master has called me to labour, and consider how few there are to carry on His blessed work, I feel my desire and determination renewed, not to count my life dear unto myself, but to spend and be spent in His service.

"You have doubtless been informed of the additional loss which the Antigua mission has sustained, by the departure of Brother Olufsen, on the 4th inst. He is the third of our Brethren on that station, whom it has pleased the Lord to remove, in the space of three quarters of a year. My last letter mentioned his visit to this island, during the month of November, and the disappointment of our hopes, that it would prove beneficial to his health. His last public discourse was addressed to our congregation at Basseterre, on the 16th of that month; in the following week he grew worse, but

was still able to undertake the voyage back to Antigua, on the 7th December. From the day of his arrival at St. John's, his strength gradually declined, till on the 4th January, as above mentioned, it pleased the Lord to release him from suffering, and to translate him into everlasting rest. His age was 41 years, of which he had spent about ten as a Missionary in Antigua. He was a countryman of mine; we had known each other twenty-two years ago, in Christiansfeld, and rejoiced, after so long a separation, to have an opportunity afforded us of renewing our acquaintance, during his late visit at Basseterre. His loss is severely felt; for he was well qualified for the missionary service, and had rendered himself generally beloved and respected by all classes. When visited with such bereavements, we are sometimes tempted to ask—"Wherefore does the Lord deal thus with His servants?" I feel, however, that I have more reason to inquire—What am I doing in His service? Do I manifest that faithfulness which He requires from me? The answer which I am compelled to give, overwhelms me with shame, and produces the prayer—"*Enter not, O Lord, into judgment with Thy servant.*"

"In taking a review of the state of our congregation during the past year, we find, upon the whole, more cause to rejoice than to mourn. The Lord has evidently been with us, and blessed our labours. During the year, 23 adults and 77 children were baptized; 106 adults received into the congregation, or re-admitted; 34 admitted to the Holy Communion; 90 individuals have become candidates for baptism or reception; 48 couples have been married. On the other hand, we have lost by death or exclusion, or by removal from the island, 177 persons.

"Our congregation consisted, at the close of 1828, of the following:—724 communicants; 772 baptized and candidates for the communion; 687 children. To these, if we add 967 candidates for baptism, new people, and excluded, the whole number under our care will amount to 3150.

"I am happy to say that our school at Basseterre is in a flourishing state, under the active superintendance of Brother and Sister Shick. On the third Christmas-holiday, the children had a cheerful love-feast, at which 518 were present. After being catechized, books were distributed among those who attend the school, of whom there are nearly 400; and to those girls who had received reward tickets, additional presents were given, received from some of our sisters and friends in England. We wish that these kind benefactors could have seen the cheerful countenances of the little black children; they would indeed have rejoiced with us, and have felt that their work of love was already rewarded. On the Sunday after Christmas, the teachers of our schools, 23 in number, had a separate meeting, in which they were encouraged to faithfulness in the discharge of their important duty, remembering the words of our Lord—"*Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.*" Most of them were presented with a Text-book, and a few, who keep evening-schools on three estates,

received some additional remuneration. We now intend to commence an evening-school on Monday and Tuesday, at Basseterre, which we hope will be well attended. The whole expense of our school at Basseterre, during the past year, amounted to £7: 3: 2, currency.

"Concerning the proposed new station at Lavington, I have nothing very particular to report. Its progress appears to be impeded by various difficulties; for the removal of which we must pa tiently wait.

January 31*st*, 1829.

"I have now to acknowledge the receipt of a letter from you, and of a parcel of school-books which came to hand yesterday. Accept our cordial thanks for both. We beg you also to express our sincere gratitude to the "Ladies Negro Education Society," for their generous donation of £25, in aid of our schools. They may rest assured that we shall do our utmost, to execute their wishes for the instruction and improvement of the negro population in this island. May the Lord, the Giver of all good, abundantly bless and reward them for this act of benevolence.

"The evening-school, to which I alluded in my last, has been established, and is frequented by many negroes. This school, together with the four of the same description, which are held on different estates, will require a considerable expenditure for candles.

"Last Sunday we had a truly blessed prayer day. At Basseterre, 3 adults were baptized, 5 received into the congregation, 4 readmitted, and 20 appointed candidates for baptism. At Bethesda 1 adult was baptized and 4 received into the congregation, or admitted candidates.

"Remember us affectionately to all the members of the Society for the Furtherance of the Gospel; and let us have a continued interest in your prayers at the throne of grace. I am your affectionate Brother,

JOHN JOHANSEN.

From Brother S. HOCH.

BETHESDA, *Feb. 5th*, 1829.

DEAR BROTHER,

"On the 30th ult. I had the pleasure to receive your letter of the 15th December, and a parcel, containing various periodical publications, and 500 spelling-books. The latter are a peculiarly valuable present, as our school stands much in need of a supply of elementary works. We beg, therefore, to return our best thanks for them. Our Sunday-school is attended by a considerable number of negroes, both adults and children, but is not in so promising a state as we could wish, owing, in a great measure, to a deficiency of suitable teachers. Not long since, a respectable gentleman called on me,

and proposed measures for the instruction of the children on two neighbouring estates under his superintendance; he at the same time promised to do his utmost to procure teachers of sober and moral character; and we sincerely trust he may meet with success; we will gladly give our assistance to the undertaking.

"Since the date of my last, I am thankful to say, we have been much cheered by several circumstances connected with the course of our congregation. The Christmas-festival was a season of peculiar blessing: the various services were numerously attended, and much eagerness was displayed to hear the message of mercy to sinners, through an incarnate Saviour. We have since perceived an increased earnestness in our people to enjoy the means of grace. At our last communion, 313 persons partook with us of this divine repast; 6 were confirmed for the first enjoyment of it, and 9 became candidates. On the preceding prayer-day, a negro woman was baptized, 4 persons were received into the congregation, and 9 became candidates for baptism or reception. On such occasions, we abundantly experience that our dear Saviour draws near to those who hunger and thirst after righteousness. O that the number of those to whom these words are truly applicable, may be continually on the increase among us!

"In the course of the year 1828, 6 adults, and 39 children were baptized at Bethesda; 33 adults were received into the congregation or re-admitted, 18 admitted to the Holy Communion, and 44 became candidates for baptism or reception.

"The congregation consisted, at the close of the year, of 424 communicants, 378 baptized adults, 466 baptized children; who with 202 candidates for baptism, and 406 new people and excluded, form a total of 1876 persons under our care.

"We commend them all, with ourselves, to your affectionate remembrance and prayers. I am, &c.

S. Hoch.

BARBADOES.

From Brother S. Brunner.

Sharon, *January 29th*, 1829.

Dear Brother,

"In my last letter I mentioned, that we were engaged with the erection of an addition to our mission-premises, containing a school-room, and a guest-chamber, both of which have long been much needed. It has been completed, at an expence of about £180 currency, of which two-thirds have been placed, with the approbation of our directors at home, to the account of the *School-fund*. The expences of our school, during the year 1828, amounted to £4: 0: 4½.

"I had lately the pleasure to receive a very kind letter from Brother Rudolph, of Dublin, and a box containing a supply of Testa-

ments, spelling-books, and hymn-books, the gift of several members of our congregation in that city. For this valuable present we beg to offer our grateful acknowledgments. The Testaments and spelling books will be particularly useful in our school.

"In the course of the year 1828, there have been baptized at SHARON, 102 adults, and 53 children; and 12 adults have been received into the congregation.

"At MOUNT TABOR there have been baptized 5 adults, and 23 children; and 20 adults have been received into the congregation.

"I am thankful to say, that our whole missionary family at Sharon are at present, quite well; indeed, during the whole of last year, we were favoured to enjoy a very good state of health, not one of our number having ever been prevented, by sickness, from performing his duties. For this mercy we desire to shew our gratitude to the giver of life and health, by increased diligence in His service.

March 2nd, 1829.

"On our last Prayer-day, (*February 8th*), we had the pleasure to baptize 12 adults into the death of Jesus. At the same time, 2 persons were received into the congregation, 4 re-admitted, and 7 added to the class of candidates for baptism. The gracious presence of our Saviour was sensibly felt among us, at all of our solemn meetings.

"At MOUNT TABOR five persons were, on the same day, admitted to further privileges in the church. I am sorry to say that Sister Taylor is still suffering from the effects of a severe attack of fever and ague. We trust, however, that it may please the Lord soon to restore her to her accustomed health.

"Our new Governor, Sir James Lyon, having arrived on the 6th ult. the Brethren Taylor, Seitz, and myself, waited upon him, on the 20th, and delivered a written address, which was kindly received. His Excellency, in reply, assured us of his disposition to afford every encouragement and protection to our labours.

"We commend ourselves to your affectionate remembrance and prayers. I am, &c. &c.

S. BRUNNER.

TOBAGO.

From Brother P. RICKSECKER.

MONTGOMERY, *January 28th*, 1829.

DEAR BROTHER,

"By a letter from Brother Brunner, which came to hand yesterday, we were informed that Brother Eberman, of St. Croix, has accepted his appointment to the service of the mission in this island; but that, on account of the illness of several missionaries on that station, he would not be able to set out for some time to come. We

shall gladly receive both him and his dear wife, with whom we have been formerly well acquainted in America, and do our best for their accommodation. The mission-house will hardly be large enough for two families; we must not, however, mind a little inconvenience at first. As soon as we receive the promised assistance, we shall endeavour to attend more regularly to the negroes on Riseland and Indian-walk. At present, I visit the latter estate every fourth week, setting out on Thursday and returning on Saturday: this, of course, interrupts the progress of the school and meetings at home. I likewise find my visits at Indian-walk rather too short for speaking individually with the negroes; a duty, the performance of which I feel more and more to be essential to their advancement in spiritual knowledge.

"Before Christmas the school was pretty well attended, the number of scholars being generally from 30 to 50; but the heathenish practices, which still prevail among the negro population about Christmas and the new year, are very unfavourable to our labours. May the Lord be pleased, in the year we have lately commenced, to awaken many of these poor people to a concern for the things of eternity, and cause His gospel to find entrance into their hearts.

"On the 25th of January, being our prayer-day, I baptized an aged negro-woman into the death of Jesus, and received another as a member of our church: three persons were also admitted candidates for baptism. Our small flock consists at present of 13 persons, 2 men and 11 women; these are but tender plants in the Lord's garden, and require much care and patience: may the Lord grant us the needful grace and wisdom. Though we cannot speak as yet of an abundant harvest, we feel that the Lord is with us; and this encourages us to persevere in leading the poor ignorant heathen to the knowledge of their Saviour.

"Our chapel is finished, but we must be supplied with some necessary articles of furniture before we can make constant use of it.

"On the 20th of November my dear wife was safely delivered of a daughter: both mother and child are doing well, for which mercy may the Lord's name be praised. My health is also quite re-established. We beg to be affectionately remembered to the members of your society, and entreat in behalf of ourselves and the work committed to us, the continuance of your prayers and those of all the benevolent supporters of this mission. I am yours, &c.

P. RICKSECKER.

EXTRACT

Of the Narrative of the Life of Brother JOHN ANTES.

(CONCLUDED FROM PAGE 334.)

Thus far our late brother has favoured us with an account of his life, which he finished shortly before his last illness. He improved considerably in his health, after his removal to Bristol, in Septem-

ber, 1809, and the sincere and cordial friendship he enjoyed in his converse with the Brethren and Sisters, and likewise with a number of worthy friends, who by degrees became acquainted with, and soon conceived a great esteem for him, caused him often to express his thankfulness, in the most fervent manner, for the mercies of his God and Saviour towards him.

He soon visited Bath, and repeated his visit in 1810, as he declared, that he derived much edification and blessing from his intercourse with his friends in that city. It may be truly said, that the gratification enjoyed was mutual, for he endeared himself to all, by his upright, genuine christian walk and conversation. At home, he was ready to serve any one with the gifts with which God had endowed him, and particularly delighted if he could render any service to the congregation.

His inventive mind and great skill in mechanics afforded him also much employment and amusement, and the time never hung heavy on his hands.

Though frequently troubled with transient indisposition, he appeared to have regained, in a great measure, his former strength and energy of mind and body, nor did the gout, with which he had been sometimes troubled in Yorkshire, attack him here in the same degree. We therefore had hopes of his being yet, for many years, spared to edify us by his walk and conversation.

On the 25th of June, 1810, he celebrated the 25th anniversary of his marriage as a jubilee, with praise and thanksgiving to our Saviour, for countless mercies experienced in that state; and was, in the society of a few friends, remarkably cheerful and animated, in calling them to mind. He continued in the enjoyment of a state of health and activity beyond his own expectations, till, in October last, (1811), when some unpleasant symptoms of oppression in the breast appeared, which were at first supposed to proceed from suppressed gout. He therefore determined to go to Bath, to consult his friend Dr. Robertson, and, as he said, once more to enjoy that heart-fellowship with several of the Brethren and Sisters there, by which he had been so much refreshed on his former visits. Dr. Robertson, having carefully considered all the symptoms of the disorder, and being requested by him to mention his opinion without reserve, as he felt no fear of death to make him afraid to hear it, candidly pronounced it to be a case full of danger, and that most likely his departure out of the world would be sudden. Far from being alarmed at this discovery, he expressed his great joy at the prospect of soon seeing his Saviour face to face. With the greatest cheerfulness he immediately began to set his house in order, and to give directions, in case it should please the Lord to take him home at Bath. The general regularity, with which he conducted all his outward affairs, made this concern more easy to him; nor was that uninterrupted communion with our Saviour, in which he lived by day and by night, in the least thereby disturbed. He spent the first part of the night, after receiving the above intimation, sleepless, with joy, recounting

all the numberless mercies, and undeserved blessings bestowed upon him, throughout the whole of his life; spoke with rapture of the near prospect of departing, and being at home with Christ, in everlasting bliss, adoring Him to all eternity for His sufferings and death, by which he had procured salvation for such a poor worthless creature; commending himself, with his wife, and all his friends and relatives, yea, the whole church of Christ on earth, and the Unity of the Brethren in particular, to His grace and protection. Many were the hours, by day and night, in which he broke out into the same expressions of joy in God, his Saviour; and the whole bent of his mind and soul, during these last weeks of his life, here below, was a practical comment on the words of the Apostle: "*Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory.*"

To his dear wife he spoke always in the most encouraging manner, directing and commending her to the Lord with great fervency. Meanwhile he submitted willingly to whatever was prescribed for his relief, and so far recovered, that he was enabled to return to Bristol, on the 7th of December. From the short journey he seemed to have received benefit, and for two or three days the spasms in his breast did not return. He expressed himself resigned to the Lord's will, in case it should please Him to leave him still longer in this world, yet he frequently observed to his wife, that he did not think that the many gracious visits with which he had been favoured by our Saviour, and which, both at Bath and here, had been attended with such a foretaste of heavenly joys, were any other than an earnest of what he should soon be called to enjoy in complete measure, in His presence; nor did the opinion of the medical men, to whom he had been most affectionately recommended by Dr. Robertson, respecting the probability of his recovery, make much impression upon him. The spasms now returned, first with less, but soon with increased violence. They affected him in a very singular and unpleasant manner; but though he intimated that the pain and anxiety produced by them was past description, yet he bore them with silent resignation. During the intervals of his relief, his usual cheerfulness and activity returned, and he was lively in the company of his friends, who were constant in their visits to him, many of whom also derived great comfort and edification from his heartfelt declarations. To some persons, who were not of a religious turn, but who, having occasionally become acquainted with him, had conceived a great love and regard for him, he gave the best advice, and according to their own declarations, made them more than ever attentive to their spiritual concerns, as they saw in him the benefit of knowing the Lord, forsaking the world, and obtaining remission of, and deliverance from sin. For out of the abundance of his heart his mouth spake continually of the mercies of the Lord, and the joy he felt in believing.

The spasms, which in the beginning of his illness were brought on only after some bodily exertion, began, about a fortnight before his departure, to attack him even in bed, chiefly in the morning,

early. Though this indicated such an increase of the disorder that we were justly alarmed about it, yet it was not expected that they would so soon terminate his mortal course. In his healthful days he had always expressed a wish, that it might please the Lord to save him from a long and lingering illness, that he might not give trouble to those who should attend him at the last, being remarkably tall and heavy. This his wish was granted.

On Monday morning the 16th, he had a very severe and painful fit, which affected his mind with some dread of a repetition of the same oppression, and he entreated his wife to join him in prayer for relief. During the course of the day he revived, and regained his usual spirits, spent the evening remarkably cheerful, and conversed very freely on various subjects with a visiting friend.

On retiring to rest, he said to his wife: "My dear, if it pleases "our Lord to continue me still longer in this world, I submit for "your sake, but you must pray him to alleviate my sufferings; yet "I would rather not begin life again, but depart and be with Him "whom my soul loves." He soon fell asleep, and slept more comfortably than the night before, which he mentioned with thankfulness, on waking. But on raising himself up, he observed that the oppression was there, and took his medicine; immediately after which, he complained of great cold at his breast, and desired to be covered up more warmly. Instantly, however, he observed, that his arms also were growing cold, and while means were using to assist him, his wife perceived such a change in his countenance, that she could not help asking: "Are you indeed now going "home to our Saviour?" Though he seemed to hear her with a smile, he could not answer, but shutting his eyes, his breath ceased, and he expired most gently, without the smallest struggle, or motion of his body, to indicate the slightest pang.

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Our late dear Brother was a man most deservedly esteemed and beloved by all who knew him, and possessed a mind superior to all selfishness, and the common pursuits of fame and riches in this world. The fruits of the spirit of Jesus which dwelt in him were manifest to all who were more intimately acquainted with him. His manners partook of reserve, the effect of a modesty, approaching to diffidence, which did not immediately display his real character to those who were only connected with him in the way of business, but he was easy of access, became very cordial in his converse with all who sought his friendship, and never failed to gain ground in their esteem by a longer acquaintance. In his several appointments in the Brethren's church, both at home and abroad, his faithfulness, punctuality, and willingness to serve, and child-like reliance on the help of God in all things, were remarkably conspicuous, and the Lord gave him success wherever he was able to execute the plans he had formed for the benefit of the congregation. In seasons of difficulty, he was calm, dispassionate, and conciliating, seeking to keep the bond of love and peace unbroken.

To the Brethren's church, its constitution, and principles, he was attached from his youth, and that from a remarkably clear view of the Lord's aim and purpose in establishing and maintaining it. If he therefore perceived any thing that tended to disturb or destroy its foundation, in doctrine and practice, he could not help expressing his disapprobation, sometimes even with severity. The doctrine of our Saviour's sufferings and death, in which his soul had found peace and rest, was to him most precious, and he delighted in the contemplation of all He had done to redeem him. He particularly delighted in the liturgical services of the church.

The unadorned narrative of his life, with which he has favoured us, speaks his character so distinctly, that nothing need be added to show how, in all things, he was devoted to the Lord, and sought to live to His glory.

May we all follow his example, that once, when we also are summoned to appear before God, we may, like our dear departed Brother, be found ready.

EXTRACT

Of the Report of the Directors of the Society of the United Brethren, for propagating the Gospel among the Heathen, made to the Society at its annual meeting, 21st August, 1829.

Since the last annual meeting of the Society, it has pleased the Lord to vouchsafe unto us a year of unusually serene and silent progress in the path allotted to us, distinguished indeed by no occurrence of difficulty or remarkable interest, whilst it has eminently furthered the object for which we are united. The board in consequence was rarely called upon for particular exertions, and has but little to report. The greater, however, is the cause we have to render thanks to the Lord, that he has thus enabled us to fulfill the main duty assigned to this society. Our duty and our calling as such, is in its nature a silent and unostentatious one. We are united for the purpose of carefully preserving, and wisely managing, the funds entrusted to us, in the character of faithful stewards, and of making over their annual produce to those who are appointed to defray the expences of that great work of the Lord our Saviour, which he has for the last 97 years been pleased to confide to the United Brethren, in the promulgation of his divine gospel among benighted heathen nations. How richly, how far exceeding all former anticipations, the goodness of the Lord has enabled us to fulfill this important duty, during the year just elapsed, will be seen by the Society on inspection of the accounts of the last year to be submitted, from which it appears that no less than Ten Thousand Dollars have been from time to time made over to the Mission Department of the United Brethren in the course thereof, over and above the sums required for the current expences, and due management of the property held

by the Society. That this has been effected without difficulties of moment, requiring great exertions of the board, that all things have gone on smoothly, and all the sources of our revenue have flowed uninterruptedly, ought surely to enhance our gratitude, though it may leave the board little to report. Another equally important part of our calling consists in zealous endeavours to arouse and maintain a deep interest in the furtherance of the propagation of the gospel among the heathen in all the members of the Society, and to encourage one another to be up and doing, as the Lord may give means and opportunities to each. We have reason to be grateful, that this part of our calling has been in some measure attained. As we had joyfully witnessed in the preceding year an officer of the Society, our dear Brother Jacob Zorn, cheerfully devoting his whole life and activity to the cause, and with his young wife going to preach the gospel to the poor slaves in Jamaica, (of whose blessed activity there we have several times received pleasing accounts), so in the present year, another member of the Society, Brother George Henry Bute, of Philadelphia, has testified the sincerity of his professions, and his readiness to sacrifice every thing to the service of God, by accepting a call to the missions among the slaves at Paramaribo, in Surinam. He set sail for that place on the 15th April, from Gloucester, near Boston, where he and his wife had received the most unexpected testimonials of kindness and interest from a large number of persons, entirely unacquainted before with the Brethren; and after a long and anxious interval, we have quite recently had the pleasure of receiving accounts from him up to the 24th of June, by which we are informed of his safe arrival at Paramaribo on the 25th of May, and of his joyful reception there. Very shortly after his arrival, Brother Bute had to sustain a very severe attack of sickness, but through the mercy of God had been restored after a dangerous crisis. The prospect of that mission, and the grace of God displayed among the congregation there, he describes as extremely encouraging. The directors have to remark, that besides these, more than one other member of the Society has expressed a desire personally to be active in a similar way, and now stands ready to obey a summons to that effect in the Lord's good time. This is the more agreeable, and is on that account duly appreciated by the Missionary department, as experience teaches, how very useful missionaries from our American congregations are, from the circumstance that they generally have a competent knowledge both of the German and English languages. We would fervently pray, that as in these latter years the members of our American congregations have been generally increasing, so may the number of such persons in them increase, who feel within them an irresistible desire to devote themselves altogether to the attainment of so main an object of the establishment of Congregations of the United Brethren in this country, as the propagation of the gospel among the heathen, constituted from the beginning. Among so many denominations of Christians here, we perceive recently a strong developement of zeal and activity in this re-

spect, heretofore scarce known, and attended in many instances with signal blessing. How greatly is it to be desired, that our little church, which was among the first it pleased the Lord to send into his vineyard, may never remain behind those, who in a later period of time have been called thither; nor any other sentiment be felt by us than sincere rejoicing, whenever it pleases him to award the same wages of grace to them, which he has vouchsafed to us, so we do not lose our share for want of active zeal.

There is, however, another part of the special calling and purpose for which the society is united, in which all its members, without exception, can equally participate, and which is surely material in the highest degree. We do not allude to that evidence of their real interest in the cause, which they can evince by their benevolent contributions, but chiefly to those faithful and unremitted supplications in behalf of the progress of the good work, which all ought to bring before the throne of grace; the sweet means of keeping alive our own interest in the cause, and so certainly attended by divine blessing. It is fully known to all, how much reason there is to be instant in prayer, when we consider the frequently precarious circumstances of many missions, under the pressure of dangers from without and within, or the increasing demand for labourers in the vineyard, and for means to maintain the work, which necessarily extends as it prospers. But the members of the Society cannot fail to feel themselves particularly called upon to supplicate the throne of grace for those missionary establishments within our own borders, that more immediately than any others claim our sympathy—we mean those among the Indians. We cannot be too pressing in encouraging one another to pray fervently for that mission among the northern Indians, which we all know may justly be said to have ever been subject to the severest trials. After the well known series of persecutions and unexampled hardships, which during nearly ninety years have closely followed one another, and by which that mission has more than six times been almost annihilated, and from our close vicinity been removed beyond the lakes, it has, indeed, latterly enjoyed a time of external rest and peace, but in a location where the opportunity of being useful among the heathen is extremely limited, and a want of internal life becomes very perceptible, while the temptations to unfaithfulness throng around it more and more, and prove extremely dangerous to the youth, so that the missionaries would certainly despair, did not the Lord from time to time vouchsafe to encourage their hopes by new instances of his mercy and goodness. Our more recently established mission among the southern Indians, is in a different situation. There, great reason is afforded for sincere joy, by the evidences of spiritual life among the converts. But this eminently blessed mission is, nevertheless, on another account, in difficulties, which claim the most fervent prayers on our part. It is true, the special care of that mission is committed to our dear Brethren in North Carolina, and not to us, but such is the nature of our intimate connexion with them, and the

warmth with which we participate in the welfare of this mission, that the directors feel assured that the society will take a deep interest in the following concise statement of the critical circumstances of the Cherokee nation, and our mission among them, by which we desire to press this subject upon the sympathies of our members, and so urge them to remember it in their prayers.

It is generally known, that, at a time when former experience did not warrant the idea that an Indian nation was likely to abandon a hunting life, and in consequence was presumed to be nearly indifferent to its place of residence, provided it afforded plenty of game, and under views of the political rights of such nations, which, whatever may be thought of their justice, were certainly universally adopted at the time—the government of the United States concluded a contract with the State of Georgia, agreeably to which that state ceded to the United States a large portion of its chartered territory, therefrom to form new states, (Alabama, for instance), and to dispose of the lands thereof as the United States should think best. By way of consideration for this ample cession, the United States engaged, at their own expence, gradually to extinguish the Indian claims within the remaining territory of Georgia; and to remove them thence, as soon as this could be effected upon reasonable and peaceable terms. This contract the United States have hitherto been actively striving to fulfil, and several millions have been expended for the purpose, as they were plainly bound to do, having received the equivalent from the state of Georgia. In the meantime the humane plan of civilizing the Indians, and rendering them an agricultural people, was steadily kept in view by the government, probably without adverting to the bearing which a successful alteration of the state of things in this respect would have on the dispositions of the Indians to accede to a final removal. In pursuance of this plan, government greatly favoured and encouraged the endeavours of all who strove to make the Indians acquainted with Christianity. As regards the numerous nation of the Cherokees, whose principal residence is within the limits of Georgia, an almost unexpected success attended these plans. A large proportion of the nation appears to have already abandoned the chace, and to have become agricultural, adopting at the same time, in a great degree, the way of life of their white neighbours; and it is well known, that the gospel has made very considerable progress among them, both through the endeavours of the Brethren, and of other zealous missionaries. For a long time the State of Georgia witnessed the progress of this alteration in silence. At length, however, it began to appear, that repeated attempts of the government in fulfilment of the contract with Georgia to induce the Cherokees to sell more and more of the lands occupied by them within the limits of Georgia, having failed, that the nation having become in a measure an agricultural one, and therefore no longer indifferent to the place where they were located, had determined to sell no more of the soil, which they considered their paternal inheritance. Georgia, nevertheless, insisted upon the fulfil-

ment of the contract, and the government of the United States in vain endeavoured to act accordingly, the Cherokees declining absolutely to listen to any proposals of removal, even to regions where it might be possible for the United States to guarantee to them a permanent abode. In addition to these difficulties the nation came to the resolution of forming for itself a written Constitution, on the model of the constitutions of other states, without abandoning their national independence, and thus establishing an independent community and government within the state of Georgia. This measure necessarily brought on a crisis; the endeavours of the government to urge forbearance on the state of Georgia, and the necessity of removal upon the Cherokees, have had but little success, and it remains to be seen in what manner that will be brought about, which it appears can in no wise be averted from the Indians. They have been notified by the government, that under existing circumstances they will have to choose one of the alternatives, either to abandon their independent nationality, and become subject to the laws of Georgia, retaining their actual possessions, (to which they have a natural repugnance, greatly augmented by the circumstance that the laws of that state, as they now stand, deprive them of certain civil and political rights which they consider essential) or to accept of a permanent residence to be guaranteed to them by the United States beyond the Mississippi, and to remove thither, in which case they are to be duly indemnified for their present improvements. To this latter alternative, those among them who have made the greatest advances in civilization, and those who have become true Christians, are the more strongly opposed, because they regard it as a certain relapse into barbarism; and certainly there is no small danger in this respect, because the civilized part of the nation would then again come into contact with that portion of their countrymen, who have already emigrated on account of their adverse disposition. It is easy to conceive, that the election which the poor Indians are called upon to make, is a most distressing one, however circumstances may render it imperatively necessary, and they scarcely know what to resolve upon.

The circumstance that several of the Indians belonging to the missions of the Brethren, are among those to whom both their countrymen and the government look up for an influential decision, renders the case peculiarly delicate for our missionaries, contradictory things being likely to be requested from them, on which account they strive to abstain from any interference. As yet there is no reason to fear that the Cherokees may be deluded into an attempt to resist their fate by arms, which would inevitably bring on their total destruction and that of the missions among them. It is, however, easy to perceive, how extremely precarious the situation of things necessarily is, and greatly to be wished, that the endeavours of government may succeed in convincing the nation of the necessity of yielding to imperious circumstances, however much they may be regretted, in such a manner as may secure to the Cherokees the advan-

tages of civilization already attained, and the blessings of the gospel. On the part of the Brethren there is no doubt that every thing possible will be done, not to abandon their little flock, even if obliged to emigrate. Let us hope that these severe trials are to be considered the means through which the Lord shall the more perfectly obtain his purpose, however little we can understand his ways. Every member of the Society will feel how powerfully this state of things claims his interceding prayers, and remember at the same time, that the works of the Lord God which he means to sustain can never be really endangered by human power.

We now subjoin a short retrospect of the history of our Mission at New Fairfield, in Upper Canada, during the last year.

On a comparison of the first letters received from our missionaries there, after the last meeting of the Society, with those recently arrived, of a date as late as the end of June, there is great reason thankfully to rejoice, that the Lord has manifestly encouraged our Brethren by divers perceptions of his renovating grace among their congregations. The letters first received contained serious and lamentable complaints concerning many afflicting occurrences among the Indians, and especially concerning a great want of energy on their part, in assisting the missionaries to put down the attempts of pagan neighbours to introduce unchristian games and superstitions, and in general to maintain good discipline; those who have hitherto been the main props of order gradually dying, without any others taking their places. The more recent accounts on the contrary give us the pleasing information, that not a few of those persons living with them, who have hitherto been given to drunkenness, appear earnestly to desire to be freed from that vice, so that several of the critical periods, for instance the time of sugar-boiling, passed without any disagreeable case of extravagance: indeed, Brother Luckenbach writes, that scenes of drunkenness had almost entirely ceased at New Fairfield, and that the meetings were assiduously attended by many of the heathen, who have taken up their residence below the town, several of whom appear to be in a hopeful state of mind. We gladly would believe that these cheering facts are ascribable to the fervent prayers offered up by the missionaries, on occasion of the solemn dedication of the new church, when the Lord was besought by them in a most particular manner, to awaken a new spirit and zeal among the congregation. After many delays, but without the least interruption of harmony, the Indian brethren had advanced so far with the completion of that new edifice, that the 17th of September last could be appointed for its consecration; the same day on which, 13 years before, the old church had been consecrated. Preparatory to this solemn day, confidential private conversations of the missionaries took place with every adult in New Fairfield, those included, who are not considered members, and they were thereby very much encouraged, because evidences of the operation of the spirit of God on many souls, were plainly perceived. The new church is described as remarkably pleasing in appearance, in some measure resembling internally the small hall at Bethlehem in shape, and sufficiently

large to contain 300 persons. Many white persons attended the solemnity; the Episcopalian minister from Chatham, about 20 miles down the river, being likewise invited to preach a sermon on the occasion. One couple was on this day solemnly absolved and re-admitted, and in general the blessing of the Lord most perceptibly pervaded the whole congregation.

The missionaries continue to deplore the sad consequences of the annual journies to Malden, and most anxiously wish that the British government may be able to devise a less injurious method of assisting the Indians. Some new hope of the kind was held out to them by the agent, although the unusual circumstance that the Indians were called upon as early as January and February to repair thither, (which renders a repetition of the journey necessary in summer, as they could not take their children in the winter) is rather of a contrary character.

It was the more gratefully acknowledged by the missionaries, that Gen. Cass of Detroit, again took the wise measures in paying the annuity from the United States, which prevent the possibility of any excess or disorders. The schools both of boys and girls have been very regularly attended during the period; they are remarkably fond of committing hymns and verses to memory. At the request of the parents, they are now instructed in English reading, as well as in their native language.

A more healthy summer and fall has rarely been known than that of last year. The commencement of winter was remarkably mild, which made the support of the cattle much easier than the small crop of Indian corn had led to expect. The Indians were very thankful for the new ox cart which had been procured for them by the mission, and which enabled them to get in their firewood with ease. During the first part of the winter it was in constant use. With the commencement of February severe cold set in, but good health was uninterrupted. The Christmas and other festivals were attended with signal blessing to many, and especially became the means of sincere repentance to several who had been unfaithful. All meetings were extremely well attended. On the 6th January, a young Mohegan woman from Greenbay, married to an Indian brother, was baptized. Nothing was a greater subject of solicitude to the missionaries, than that the proportionably numerous children of their flock may all become true members of Christ, and learn to make a proper use of the means of grace afforded them, as they grow up.

At the close of the year 1828, the small flock at New Fairfield, besides the missionary family, consisted exactly of 200 persons, including new people and those temporarily excluded, 12 in number. The number of communicants is 30, besides 86 baptized adults, 56 baptized children, 17 unbaptized adults, and 11 unbaptized children. In the course of the year 1828, three adults and 10 children have been baptized, 1 person was admitted to the holy communion, and 4 absolved and re-admitted: 6 adults, and 4 baptized and 4 unbaptized children, have departed this life.

MEMOIR *of the Life of the negro-assistant* SALOME CUTHBERT, *a member of the congregation at* GRACEHILL, Antigua. *(Compiled in part from her own narrative.)*

"I was born at Body-Pond in Antigua. About the year 1774, I was made sensible of the necessity of going to a place of worship; and I attended the late Mr. Gilbert's meetings. But as I then had not much knowledge of myself as a lost sinner, what I heard did not make any abiding impression upon me. At this time my husband with many others were in the habit of attending the Brethren's Church at Spring Gardens; thither I now went also; and it pleased the Lord to awaken me to a deep sense of my lost condition, through the preaching of the late Brother Brown. At the same time I heard that Jesus had died the cursed death of the cross for the sins of the world, and the Holy Spirit brought this truth so powerfully home to my heart, that I saw my sins had helped to nail Him there: and under this conviction I became distressed day and night.

"On Palm-Sunday 1778, I had the unexpected favour to be added to the class of candidates for holy baptism: and such was my ardent desire to obtain the forgiveness of my sins and to be baptized, that I often spent whole nights in prayer to our Saviour, to have mercy on me and grant to me that grace. This ardent desire sometimes made me impatient; and when I saw others admitted to that privilege, I would go home and cry for hours together, so that my husband could with difficulty console me. In speaking with Sister Brown, and expressing my longing desire to be baptized, she endeavoured to satisfy me, by the assurance that our Saviour takes notice of souls panting after His mercy. My prayer was at length graciously heard and granted; on Palm-Sunday, the year following, I had the favour with 45 others, to receive this sacred pledge of the forgiveness of all my sins, in the blood of Jesus Christ. Brother Mack, a bishop of the Brethren's Church, officiated on this solemn occasion. My husband having been baptized some time before me, it pleased the Lord to grant us the further privilege of admission to the Holy Communion in the year 1781."

After the departure of her old mistress, she left Body-Pond, and came to live in Falmouth, having become the property of one Mrs. Cuthbert of that place. About this time she lost her husband, by whom she had five children. One of these departed before her; two of the remaining four are assistants in the congregation at Grace hill, and several of her grandchildren belong to our church.

In Falmouth she was intrusted by her mistress with the care of a small retail shop, and the management of a bakehouse, which, much against the wish of her heart, detained her from the meetings. In the year 1791 she became an assistant. In 1807 Mrs. Cuthbert departed this life; in her will she had left our late sister her freedom, and, as a further token of her regard for her faithful services, bequeathed her ten pounds *per annum* during her life. Her master, knowing her great faithfulness, wished much to retain her as a free

servant in his house; but her desire to have the unrestrained enjoyment of the means of grace, made her unwilling to listen to any offers of that kind. She sold her house in Falmouth, and came to the Missionaries at Gracehill, saying: "Here I wish to live, and here I wish to lay my bones:" for, like old Anna, it was the utmost desire of her heart to be near to the house of God, and serve the Lord day and night; and, excepting when sickness prevented her, she never missed any of the meetings.

But, in addition to her own spiritual enjoyments, it evidently appeared that our Saviour intended, by her removal to Gracehill, to make her an instrument of blessing and usefulness to the Missionaries and to the whole congregation. To the Missionaries, she ever proved herself a faithful and trusty servant, on whom they could depend in every thing intrusted to her care and management. In what concerned the congregation, she laboured with unremitting zeal in her office as assistant among her own sex. Indeed, she might be justly called a general helper. The Lord had endued her, not only with a good understanding and sound judgment, but with special gifts for enforcing the truths of the gospel, in her private intercourse with others, speaking a word of comfort to the distressed, admonishing the careless, and settling differences and disputes among the members of the congregation. Her faithful and upright conduct, in these respects, made her generally beloved by the negroes, so that, when differences occurred among them, she was frequently first consulted. Waking or asleep, her whole mind seemed to be engaged in the work of the Lord, and in earnest desires for the good of her fellow creatures. When any of the Missionaries were dangerously ill, she would attend them in the day, and watch or sleep in the room with them in the night. All who have enjoyed her faithful care at such times, will remember it with thankfulness to the Lord, for giving them so kind a nursing-mother.

For the last seven years, she was troubled with frequent attacks of the erysipelas. At such times it was difficult to get her to take any medicine for her relief. She would say, "No, I wish to go home to my Saviour, and to rest with Him. He has redeemed me, I know I am His, and He is mine. I would not remain one day longer here below, than He sees good."

Our other negro-servants had the greatest love and respect for her. Indeed, she acted the part of a most faithful mother to them, in reproving, admonishing, and advising them for their temporal and spiritual welfare.

Once when it appeared that she was not likely to recover, one of them was asked, "*Thomas*, what will you do, if your mammy *Salome* departs." He answered, "Me no know; if she die, I should like to die too."

During the year 1826, she became so weak and helpless, that she consented to be removed to her eldest daughter to be better cared for. Here she gradually declined in strength of body and mind; which made her more desirous to leave this world and to be at home with Him whom she loved and in whom she believed.

This her longing desire was granted to her on the 19th of September, 1828, at the age of 96 years; and the day following, her remains were interred in the burial ground at Gracehill.

By her four children, she lived to see thirty-one grand-children, twenty-three great grand-children, and one great-great-grand-child; the majority of whom survive her. May they all have grace to follow her as she followed Christ, and to become partakers of that incorruptible inheritance, which will hereafter be the portion of all true children of God.

SURINAM.

Extract of a Letter from Brother W. C. Genth.

Paramaribo, *March 13th*, 1829.

Dear Brother,

"There are at present five married brethren employed as missionaries among the heathen in this colony, and our whole missionary family, children included, numbers fifteen souls. The work committed to us continues from year to year on the increase, and calls for a corresponding degree of activity on our part. We are, therefore, truly thankful to the Lord for the health we have, with few exceptions, been permitted to enjoy; and the more so, as the climate of Surinam is not the most salubrious in the West Indies.

"Our negro flock consisted, at the commencement of this year, of 1633 persons, of whom 970 were communicants. To the classes of new people and candidates for baptism belong about 400 negroes; so that the number of souls committed to our care in this town and neighbourhood exceeds 2000. Though we have much reason to feel encouraged at this increase, and behold satisfactory evidences of a real work of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of our people, we cannot help earnestly praying, that they may receive a larger measure of divine life, and be enabled to exhibit more abundantly the graces which adorn the character of a genuine follower of Christ.

"Our new church is finished: for which you will join us in thanking the Lord. The building is 95 feet long by 60 in breadth: and the height is 22 feet. It is furnished with galleries. The expence of its erection has amounted to 22000 guilders, (about £1850 sterling). Of this sum, between 14000 and 15000 guilders have been contributed by the inhabitants of this colony: the proceeds of a subscription entered into by our friends, as mentioned in a former letter, amounting to above 8000 guilders; and other donations, including 1000 guilders subscribed by some free members of our own church, forming the difference. The debt remaining to be discharged by the mission-fund does not therefore greatly exceed 7000 guilders, or £590 sterling.

"Our day-school for negro children, who are all taught to read the language currently spoken in this colony (the Creole or Negro-English), proceeds with regularity, and we have reason thankfully to acknowledge the blessing which rests upon it. A Sunday-school,

attended by about 200 adults, is likewise held, during the intervals of divine service. We are already anticipating with delight the arrival of an edition of the New Testament in the Negro-English language, which we have been informed the British and Foreign Bible Society have generously engaged to print for the use of this mission. The possession of this precious volume will be a treasure, not only to many hundreds in our own congregation, but likewise to not a few among our fellow citizens, both bond and free, who have hitherto not been able to procure it.

"Our sphere of usefulness in the numerous surrounding plantations, continues to extend itself. We visit at present on sixteen estates, and have opportunities afforded us to proclaim to many thousand negroes, that greatest of all truths, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. During the progress of these missionary pilgrimages, which occupy us about four weeks at a time, we have many cheering proofs that the grace of God our Saviour is able to reach the hearts of the most depraved and ignorant of the human race. About 200 negroes on these different estates are already in connection with our church. A small company, it is true, when compared with the whole population; yet *Who hath despised the day of small things?* Our gracious Master does not, and why should we His servants? Rather let us accept of the blessing He vouchsafes, as a token of His favour, and an encouragement to yet more zealous exertions.

"A desire to extend the blessings of Christianity to the heathen population of this colony, has of late manifested itself, in a very pleasing manner, among our fellow citizens, including some of the highest functionaries of the civil and ecclesiastical establishment. You have already heard that a society was formed for this express purpose in the course of last year, with the sanction and support of the Colonial Government. Their immediate object is to enable the Brethren's missionaries to extend their labours to the negroes in the more distant parts of the colony, who have not yet had the gospel preached to them. All this has been brought about entirely without any interference on our part.

"It is hoped, that, by the establishment of central stations, at which missionaries might be resident, and to which the negroes might have free access, this object may be effected. Till such a plan can be brought into effect, we shall proceed as hitherto to serve the more distant plantations with the gospel according to our best ability.

"During the present Passion season, when we are called upon, in union with all our fellow Christians, to contemplate the bitter sufferings and meritorious death of our Redeemer, we have commenced a series of public services every Wednesday evening, for the more particular meditation on the last words of Jesus. They have hitherto been attended by crowded and devout auditories.

"We beg to salute, in the bonds of Christian love, the members of the Society for the Furtherance of the Gospel, and all our kind friends and well-wishers in Great Britain. Ever believe me, your affectionate brother, W. C. Genth.

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